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Japan

Discussions, Views on Islands Territorial Issue

Russia 'Will Inherit' 1956 Pact

OW2003054192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told his Japanese counterpart Michio Watanabe on Friday that Russia will "inherit" a 1956 Soviet-Japan accord that calls for the return of two islands to Japan, officials said.

However, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Kozyrev stopped short of endorsing the validity of the Soviet-Japan joint declaration in which the Soviet Union agreed to return Shikotan and the Habomai islets, but not two larger disputed islands, Kunashiri and Etorofu.

The islands, off Japan's northernmost island Hokkaido, were seized by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II. The former Soviet Union did not honor the 1956 agreement because of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

"We are not fully satisfied" with Kozyrev's argumen., the official said after the first round of talks between Watanabe and Kozyrev.

Japanese officials said Kozyrev, making his first official visit to Japan as Russian foreign minister, cited difficulty in committing his country to quickly settling the territorial dispute with Japan.

Kozyrev arrived in Tokyo on Thursday.

Officials: Remarks 'Significant'

OW2003072492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0714 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said Friday that Russia considers itself the successor to the now-defunct Soviet Union's 1956 joint declaration with Japan, which envisaged a partial solution to a territorial dispute.

Foreign Ministry officials said Kozyrev made the remarks in a three-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, the first of three rounds of scheduled talks between the two through Saturday.

The meeting represents the first regular consultations between the two foreign ministers since the Soviet Union's demise last December, although they held talks in Moscow in January at the time of an international conference.

The officials said Kozyrev's remarks on the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration were significant in being the first of their kind in bilateral talks at the level of foreign ministers.

But they said the remarks were not explicit enough in clarifying Russia's stance on recognizing the legal validity of the declaration, which Japan considers an international promise.

The officials said Kozyrev told Watanabe that Russia wants to resolve the dispute over four Russian-occupied islands off Hokkaido "on the basis of the principles of law and justice" and in "the most rational manner."

"Russia, as the successor state to the Soviet Union, assumes the rights and obligations of all its international promises, including the 1956 declaration by which diplomatic relations between our two countries were established," Kozyrev was quoted as saying.

"But at the same time, there exist complications when it comes to concrete consideration of the issue," Kozyrev added in reference to Russian political forces against reform, which he said were opposed to his government's conciliatory stance and are "exploiting it for political purposes."

Kozyrev said if those forces succeed, Moscow's stance could easily slip back to the intransigence of the past when the Soviet Government did not even acknowledge the existence of a territorial dispute with Japan, Japanese officials said.

Japan and Russia are negotiating a peace treaty on the understanding the issue entails a resolution of Japan's claims to the four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group.

The Soviet Army seized the islands in 1945 just after Japan surrendered in World War II.

The 1956 declaration stated Shikotan and the Habomai isles were to be transferred to Japan after conclusion of a peace treaty. It made no reference to the two larger islands of Kunashiri and Etorofu.

Amid the growing East-West antagonism of the cold war, that portion of the declaration was unilaterally renounced in 1960 by Moscow in the wake of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty bonding Tokyo and Washington in a stronger alliance.

Officials said Kozyrev made no reference to the 1960 annulment, which was conveyed to Japan by a diplomatic memorandum. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze said in working-level peace treaty talks last month it is necessary to overcome the memorandum.

Officials said Watanabe lauded Kozyrev's remarks in a television interview last December that the 1960 memorandum should be annulled.

He also praised Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statements in a recent letter to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that Russia wants to resolve the dispute on the basis of "law and justice" and Japan is now regarded as a "potential ally."

But he called on Moscow to acknowledge it was a mistake for the Soviet Union to have unilaterally broken a neutrality treaty with Japan in force during World War II, declare war, and take 600,000 Japanese soldiers as prisoners, some 60,000 of whom perished.

Officials said Kozyrev and Watanabe agreed that to help shape Russian public opinion, the two countries' foreign ministries should jointly compile a publication of documents relating to the territorial dispute, completing it before Yeltsin visits Japan in early September.

Kozyrev made an indirect appeal for further Japanese assistance, saying it is important for Japan to cooperate with other countries in supporting democratic forces in Russia.

He implied a linkage between Japanese aid and the territorial dispute in saying a resolution would not be possible if reform efforts fail.

Officials said Watanabe turned down Kozyrev's call for an end to Japan's policy of linking economic ties with Russia with progress on the territorial question.

But he said Japan will continue extending humanitarian assistance and support Russia's entry into international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund.

Officials said Kozyrev confirmed Russia has cut its troops on the disputed islands by 30 percent to about 7,000. Watanabe said he hopes to visit Moscow in May to help lay the groundwork for a Yeltsin visit to Japan.

Aid Linked to Dispute Solution

OW2003073492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, in a meeting Friday with Russian Foreign Minsiter Andrey Kozyrev, reiterated his support for Russian membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), ministry officials said.

If Russia becomes a formal member of the IMF, it will have access to financing by the Washington-based lending agency.

Watanabe also gave support to a lifting of the lending limit of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for the former Soviet Union, they said.

The EBRD agreed at its board meeting in January to remove the lending ceiling, which is set at 36 million European currency units (ECUs) per year and was imposed at the EBRD's inception last year.

Repeating Japan's position, Watanabe also told Kozyrev that Tokyo has done what it can do and stressed that it cannot do more unless a territorial dispute between the two countries is resolved, the ministry officials said.

A dispute over four islands off Hokkaido, the northern main island of Japan, has kept Japan from signing a peace treaty with the former Soviet Union.

Ministers Make 'Little Pregress'

OW2003071792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0614 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Japan and Russia made little progress Friday in talks on a territorial dispute over four islands, and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will visit Moscow in early May to press the matter again, Japanese officials said.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Watanabe his country will "inherit" a 1956 Japan-Soviet pact that calls for the return of two islands to Japan. However, one official said Kozyrev stopped short of endorsing the validity of the 1956 joint declaration in which the Soviet Union agreed to return Shikotan and the Habomai islets, but not the larger islands of Kunashiri and Etorofu.

The Soviet Army captured the islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido at the end of World War II.

Kozyrev also told Watanabe that Russia has cut its troops on the disputed islands by 30 percent to 7,000, another official said.

"We are not fully satisfied" with Kozyrev's argument, the official said after the initial round of talks between Watanabe and Kozyrev.

Kozyrev, making his first official visit to Japan as Russian foreign minister, cited difficulty in committing his country to quickly settling the territorial dispute with Japan, the officials said.

The Japanese Government has refused to provide Russia with massive economic aid mainly because of the dispute, which has prevented the two countries from concluding a peace treaty aimed at ending a technical state of war between Japan and the former Soviet Union.

The officials said Watanabe will follow up the ongoing ministerial talks here with a trip to Moscow in early May. Watanabe urged Kozyrev to come to Tokyo again in July or August to prepare for a trip to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September.

Kozyrev arrived in Tokyo on Thursday.

Influence of Public Opinion Noted

OW2003085692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Friday called for expanded exchanges between the Russian far east and northern Japan in a meeting with Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi at a Tokyo hotel, Japanese officials said.

Kozyrev told Yokomichi public opinion in the former Soviet Union and particularly the Russian far east, will exercise a great influence on a territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, the officials said.

Kozyrev also told Yokomichi that he will endeavor to improve the climate for greater exchanges between the two neighboring governments, they said.

The Russian foreign minister said it is important to consider the feeling of Russian residents in Sakhalin Province, which has de facto jurisdiction over the disputed four islands, for a settlement of the territorial issue, the officials said.

Kozyrev pressed for an early implementation of visa-free visits by local residents to promote their understanding of Japan, they said.

The four islands were seized by the former Soviet Union in the last days of World War II.

Yokomichi told Kozyrev that progress in settling the territorial dispute is essential for the further expansion of bilateral ties, the officials said.

Conditional 'Flexibility' Pledged

OW2003123092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday assured Russia that Japan would show flexibility if it were to recognize Japanese sovereignty over four islands seized by Soviet troops in the closing days of World War II, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Miyazawa made the remarks in a 75-minute meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who arrived in Japan on Thursday for his first regular consultations with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, the officials said.

Miyazawa said Japan wants from Russia a clear recognition of Japanese residual sovereignty over all four islands and a statement of its intent to return them before a bilateral peace treaty can be concluded.

"If those things are made clear to us, we would then be prepared to consider our approach to various issues in a flexible manner," he was quoted as saying.

Miyazawa was believed to be referring to Japanese flexibility on such details as the timing and method of a territorial transfer.

Calling it "unnatural" for such major powers as Japan and Russia not to have a peace treaty so many decades after World War II, Miyazawa said, "It is essential that there be a settlement at this time."

The officials declined to say whether Miyazawa was suggesting by his remarks that a peace treaty be concluded when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits Japan in early September.

They also declined to speculate if that was what Kozyrev was referring to when he told Miyazawa "a document of importance" relating to a political solution to the territorial dispute should be prepared for Yeltsin's visit.

In four hours of talks with Watanabe earlier in the day, however, Kozyrev spoke of a "joint declaration" being arranged for next September.

Japan and Russia are preparing for negotiations on a bilateral peace treaty on the understanding that such a treaty is conditional on a resolution of Japan's claims to the four Russian-occupied islands off its northernmost main island of Hokkaido—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets.

The officials said Miyazawa lauded Yeltsin's statement in a recent letter that Russia regards Japan "as a partner bound by our shared human values, moreover a potential ally."

He also hailed Yeltsin's commitment to resolve the territorial issue in line with a foreign policy based on the principles of "law and justice."

In talks with Watanabe earlier in the day, Kozyrev hinted that Russia would eventually honor the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration, in which it was stated that Shikotan and the Habomais were to be transferred to Japan after conclusion of a peace treaty.

The officials said Kozyrev made an indirect pitch to Miyazawa for increased Japanese assistance, saying the pro-democracy, pro-reform political forces in Russia need as much outside support as possible as they are under intense attack from communists, right-wing nationalists, and "conservatives."

He warned that a failure of Yeltsin's reforms would likely spell an end to the Russian Government's "law and justice" foreign policy.

LDP's Kanemaru Unhurt in Shooting Incident

OW2003120692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was shot at with a pistol Friday evening while making a speech at a municipal hall in Ashikaga, Tochigi Prefecture, some 70 kilometers northwest of Tokyo, police said.

Although Kanemaru dropped to the podium floor when a young man fired three shots, he was not injured by the attack, police added.

Police arrested the gunman on the spot. He was identified as Hiroshi Watanabe, 25, of Tokyo who claimed to be a member of the self-styled rightist group "Yukoku-Seiwa-Kai."

Police, who at first believed the pistol was merely a toy gun, were questioning Watanabe over his motive for the attack.

Kanemaru, who was visiting Ashikaga on a campaign tour, completed his schedule there and then returned to Tokyo.

LDP power broker Kanemaru, together with then vice chairman of the Social Democratic Party Makoto Tanabe, made a visit to Pyongyang in 1990 as a representative of the ruling party and signed a three-party joint declaration with North Korean leaders which paved the way for the ongoing Tokyo-Pyongyang normalization talks.

Since then Kanemaru has been targeted for harassment by rightist groups. His residence in Tokyo was subjected to a petrol bomb attack in early November last year.

North Korea

Nuclear Control Committee Chairman on Meeting

SK1903112192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Panmunjom March 19 (KCNA)—The first meeting of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee was held behind closed doors at the Tongil House in the North side's portion today.

Chairman of the North side Choe U-chin gave a news briefing after the meeting.

According to him, the chairman of the North side made a keynote speech first at the meeting.

He called for adhering to the principle of maintaining an independent stand in the settlement of the question of denuclearization, completely denuclearizing the country, consolidating the achievements in the denuclearization and finally removing the nuclear threat.

He spoke of the North side's views on what the joint committee should do.

Saying that its job is to work out a comprehensive document of agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization, he put forward an 8-article, 23-paragraph draft "agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

He also advanced draft "regulations of inspection to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula," an annexed agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration.

Specified in the 6-chapter, 24-article, 39-paragraph regulations of inspection are the purpose of nuclear inspection, inspection of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, inspection of nuclear facilities and nuclear material, formation and operation of nuclear inspection teams and other provisions.

He said that our drafts provide for concrete measures for consolidating the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, remaining faithful to the joint declaration and the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee.

Chairman of the South side Kong No-myong spoke next.

Asserting that there is not a single nuclear weapon in the South as the South side made a "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons," he said his side has not prepared any draft agreement for the implementation of the declaration on denuclearization.

He brought forward "regulations for the enforcement of the mutual nuclear inspection between the North and the South" in which the South side also avoided mentioning anything about the problem of U.S. nuclear weapons and bases.

He asserted the characteristics of his side's proposal lies in that main emphasis was put on conducting inspection in line with the purpose of the joint declaration, it was modelled after a foreign one and it was aimed at inspecting the same number of objects on the basis of respect for the objects chosen by the opposite side.

The keynotes of the speeches made by the sides showed divergent views on the cardinal problems between the North and the South.

As regards the statement made by the South side our side declared that the South side's proposal lacks any will to carry out the denuclearization to the letter and remove the very source of the nuclear threat and added a clear proof of this is the fact that there is no mention about nuclear weapons and bases in the proposal.

As regards the inspection of the same number in the problem of inspection objects on which the South side insists, our side stated that this is a behavior to escape an inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases under all circumstances. Calling for an overall inspection of objects, including that of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases so that suspicions may be dispelled simultaneously, our side stressed that if a perfect denuclearization is to be realised, it is necessary to jointly cope with a nuclear threat from outside and get a guarantee from nuclear states.

Our side urged the South side to make a deep study of our side's drafts with a proper attitude and stand toward the meeting and come to the next meeting with draft annexed documents.

The South side said that it would study our side's draft.

It was decided to hold the second meeting on April 1.

Article Says Domination 'True Nature' of U.S.

SK2003104992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1025 GMT 20 Mar 92

["U.S. Imperialism, Largest Dominationist Force"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—Imperialism is dominationism in its true nature and the U.S. imperialists are the largest dominationist force ever in history, says NODONG SINMUN today.

Today when the Soviet-U.S. confrontation ended and the United States remains the only superpower of the world, U.S. imperialism has openly revealed its wild ambition for world domir.ation and set it forth as an immediate and actual task to realise it, the paper in a by-lined article stresses, and goes on:

A "draft guideline of defence program" made public by the U.S. Defence Department some time ago says that the United States is the only superpower of the world and lays down a political, military strategy of the United States to maintain the position of the superpower and continue the role as such.

This is the dominationist idea that any country of the world should neither be stronger than the United States nor challenge the U.S. "primacy", the world should exist only for the United States and all countries and nations should obey the United States and serve its interests.

The U.S. imperialists' ambition for world hegemony is backed by a "new military strategy".

The keynote of the "new military strategy" is to maintain military predominance on a world-wide scale or a regional scale, keep the permanent forward deployment of U.S. military bases and Armed Forces in different parts of the world, strengthen the mobile task force, preserve the existing military bloc and bind "allies" tightly to it to inveigle them into military actions against the socialist and other progressive forces. The U.S. imperialists committed a series of military actions in the name of the United Nations under the signboard "collective defence" in the past, but they are now seeking the option to act independently only with their forces beyond the U.N. framework in the future.

In the document the U.S. imperialists stress that they should "check the formation of an independent security organisation of Europe which will jeopardize the NATO," prevent an "instable situation which may be caused by the growing role of allies, Japan in particular" and they "use military power if necessary" in Korea and other countries under the pretext of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons.

The U.S. imperialists' attempt to dominate the world is an act going against the trend of the times towards independence.

Paper Criticizes South Stance on Agreements

SK2003105592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 20 Mar 92

["South Korean Side Must Not Go Contrary to Reason"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—At the first meeting of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee held at Panmunjom on March 19 the South side came up with "regulations on enforcement of North-South mutual nuclear inspection" instead of annexed agreements for the implementation of the joint declaration. This shows that they have no intention to work for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and it is a crude violation of the North-South agreement, says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

The South side's argument is aimed at reducing the work of fully realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula to a mere name, the news analyst says, and goes on:

The aim of the Nuclear Control Joint Committee is to implement the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

This is already manifested in explicit terms also in the "Agreement on Formation and Operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee."

The "inspection regulations" brought forward by the South side is a mere provision for the implementation of the joint declaration.

It is intended to weaken the authority and functions of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee which deals with the overall question of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, turning their back on the drafting of annexed agreements for the implementation of a joint declaration to be adopted by the joint committee, and attain their sinister aims through it.

Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula cannot be realized through a few rounds of mutual inspection of nuclear facilities asserted by the South side.

The document should contain the questions of eliminating nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, of taking North-South joint measures against foreign nuclear weapons on the part of the North and the South and guaranteeing the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula on the part of nuclear weapon states, etc.

The South side must clearly understand this and change its stand.

Buddhist Leader Speaks on Nirvana Anniversary

SK1903153192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1511 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA)—Masses marking day of Buddha's nirvana were held at temples in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on March 18.

Most venerable Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhists Federation, delivered a sermon at a mass in the Kwangbop Temple in Mt. Taesong in Pyongyang.

He said it is the supreme task of the nation which brooks no more delay to restore the sovereignty of the nation throughout the country and achieve national reunification.

He fully supported the great President Kim Il-song's policy clarified in his talk to the members of the delegations of both sides to the inter-Korean high-level talks on February 20 on strictly maintaining an independent stand, taking substantial steps for the guarantee of peace in the country and achieving great national unity, considering it to be in full accordance with the preaching that Buddha gave to his disciples before entering into nirvana, his teachings on regarding only himself and dharma as the lantern, not depending on any other thing.

The South Korean authorities refuse an overall nuclear inspection with the U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in secret nuclear arsenals, while persistently begging for the U.S. imperialist aggressors' occupation of South Korea even after "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" and "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" took effect, he said, and added: Such acts are an anti-national crime indelible down through generations.

He continued:

If reconciliation and unity between the North and the South are to be realized and national reunification be achieved, the struggle of the patriotic people for independence and reunification must be encouraged and supported, the "National Security Law" be scrapped and the suppression of them stopped.

Noting that the South Korean authorities' policy of dependence on outside forces and their suppression of the pro-reunification patriotic figures are encouraged by the United States, he emphatically said that if the inter-Korean agreement and the joint declaration are to be properly implemented and the peace of the country and its peaceful reunification be achieved, the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from South Korea and an end be put to the U.S. interference and aggression moves, first of all.

Joint Action on 'Comfort Girls' Issue Urged

SK2003114192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1051 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA)—A joint meeting of the political parties and public organisations of the DPRK held here today discussed "on taking joint action of North and South in the problem of 'comfort girls for the army'" and adopted an appeal to the political parties, public organisations and personages of South Korea.

The appeal says that a proper settlement of the problem of "comfort girls for the army" which concerns the crime of the Japanese imperialists in brutally violating the dignity and chastity of Korean women during the Pacific war is not a matter confined to the North nor to the South, but a common task of the entire nation in the North and the South.

Recalling that at the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks held in February the North side's delegation proposed to take a joint action of the North and the South in the problem of "comfort girls for the army" and urged to the South Korean authorities to respond to this proposal, but they have not yet adopted positive measures meeting the demand of the fellow countrymen for the solution of this problem, the appeal says:

The stance of the present South Korean authorities opposing the proposal for the North and the South to take a joint action against Japan as regards the problem of "comfort girls for the army" which has recently been put on the order of the day among many questions that should be settled with Japan, shows that they have not renounced the mode of thinking and stance of the old age in which they opposed fellow countrymen in reliance upon outside forces, even today when the North-South agreement has come into effect.

We earnestly call on the political parties and public organisations and personages of South Korea to wage a powerful joint struggle to get the apology and compensation of the Japanese Government in the problem of "comfort girls for the Japanese Army" by putting together the intention and purpose of the political parties, public organisations and patriotic personages in the North and the South, since the South Korean authorities take a pro-Japanese humiliating attitude against a joint action toward Japan.

For the patriotic political parties, public organisations and personages of the North and the South to take a joint action toward Japan fully accords with the spirit of the inter-Korean agreement which stipulates joint efforts for the dignity and interests of the nation. And it would set a good precedent for the implementation of the agreement.

We present at this joint meeting, as such a measure, respectfully propose to you that a joint national committee comprising representatives of political parties and public organisations and personages of different

circles in the North and the South be formed to demand apology and compensation of Japan.

To this end, we consider it necessary that delegates of political parties and public organisations and personages of the North and the South meet at Panmunjom as soon as possible for discussion.

We are willing to accept a bilateral or multilateral contact with our South Korean counterparts at their request.

We believe that the political parties and public organisations and personages of South Korea will certainly show a positive response to our reasonable initiative and appeal to attain the national dignity and rights and promote the national interests.

We hope that South Korean political parties, organizations and personages will join hands with us and get without fail apology and compensation for the humiliation, insult and losses suffered by our nation at the hand of the Japanese imperialist aggressors, so that we may say proudly that we discharged the national task assumed by our generation.

Anniversary of Relations With Cuba Celebrated

SK2003055792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0519 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 2 (KCNA)—A friendship gathering took place at the Korea-Cuba Friendship Hwasong Cooperative farm here Thursday on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of friendship unity between Korea and Cuba.

Invited there were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials. Speeches were exchanged there. The participants deepened feelings of friendship, singing songs of the two countries.

South Korea

Russia 'Willing To Seek' Military Exchanges

SK1903125092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1234 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russia is willing to seek exchanges with South Korea in the military field and is considering including such a clause in a bilateral amity pact, its Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said Thursday.

Peace on and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula coincide with Russia's vital interests, Kozyrev said in an airport press conference prior to his departure.

If necessary, Russia could bring up North Korea's nuclear issue at the U.N. Security council, the foreign minister said.

Kozyrev left for Japan after a three-day visit to Seoul. He and South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok pledged close cooperation in deterring North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development.

Russia's policy toward Korea is to develop new friendly cooperative relations with South Korea and seek "normal" ties surpassing ideology with North Korea, Kozyrev told reporters. He stressed that Russia's relations with North Korea should be based on reciprocal cooperation.

When the South Korea-Russia amity pact is signed in September during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Seoul visit, the two countries will form friendly relations like South Korea's ties with other Western nations, he said.

Russia is considering including a clause on mutual consultation and cooperation when the two countries feel they are in danger, Kozyrev said, adding Russia is in principle ready to seek exchanges with South Korea in the military sector.

On the North Korea-Russia Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance, Kozyrev said it contains too much of ideological elements and thus needs practical revisions. On the treaty's Clause One stipulating military alliance, he said Russia plans to revise it to guarantee security support only in cases of unprovoked attack.

Russia will put up efforts so that nuclear weapons will never emerge on the Korean peninsula, he said.

Joint Committee To Handle Inter-Korean Trade

SK1903134092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0514 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—The government plans to handle all trade and joint ventures with North Korea through the South and North Joint Committee for Economic Exchanges and Cooperation to be established in May, a senior government official said Thursday.

Han Kap-su, vice economic planning minister, was quick to add that inter-Korean economic cooperation will depend entirely on the resolution of the nuclear issues pending between the South and the North.

In the process, Han said, the government was also considering letting private business enterprises form a consultative committee in order to help carry out systematic cooperation with North Korea.

Speaking at a meeting sponsored by the new Industry Management Academy, Han said the joint committee was to be formed in May under the basic inter-Korean accord reached Dec. 13, but it might take a considerable time and effort before a tangible result of cooperation was realized.

In addition to the nuclear issue, North Korea's political system and its desire to improve economic relations with

Japan could work against an early development in the inter-Korean cooperation, Han said.

When the South and North joint committee is formed, the government will specify the kinds of commodities and their amounts for trade, Han said. The government also plans to negotiate with the North on the fields, the size and forms of joint ventures, Han added.

As for possible fields in which the South and the North could cooperate, Han cited joint development of North Korean and overseas natural resources, free flow of foreign tourists between the South and the North, the establishment of joint fishing areas, the United Nations development project at the Tumen River region and joint ventures in third countries.

Han said the government also plans to suggest South Korean support for doping test technology for the 1995 Winter Olympic Games to be held in North Korea.

DPRK Nuclear, Missile Technology Assessed

SK2003055592 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Mar 92 p 6

[Article by reporter Kim Chun-pom: "State of North Korea's Nuclear and Missile Technology"]

[Text] What level has North Korea attained in developing nuclear weapons, missiles, and other state-of-the-art weapons, and how threatening is it?

The International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations, the U.S. Administration, U.S. media, and media of Russia, Japan, and other countries in our vicinity have stressed that it would be very dangerous if North Korea arms itself with nuclear arms. Also, exports of North Korean missiles to Middle Eastern countries have been exposed repeatedly in recent times. So, attention has focused on North Korea's military technology.

Most noteworthy is the report that North Korea has already succeeded in developing a nuclear explosive device.

Quoting ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, an influential Russian magazine, Japan's KYODO News Agency reported on 15 March: "Recently disclosed secret KGB documents show that North Korea succeeded in developing a nuclear explosive device toward the end of 1990 [year as published]."

North Korea did this three years earlier than Robert RisCassi, commander of U.S. Forces in Korea, predicted: During testimony to a U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on 4 March, he said that "North Korea will be able to develop nuclear explosive devices by early 1993."

If this is true, not only the ROK but also the Northeast Asian region in general will face a serious threat.

However, officials of our National Defense Ministry are pessimistic. Even though it relies chiefly on the United States in gathering military information on the North, the National Defense Ministry believes that North Korea will be able to develop nuclear weapons after 1993.

The second noteworthy part to the nuclear weapons issue is North Korea's missiles. Military experts say that North Korea not only manufactures and deploys ground-to-ground Scud missiles but also exports them in large numbers.

North Korea has manufactured 50 Scud missiles a year on the outskirts of Pyongyang since 1987. It also exported approximately 100 Scud missile warheads to Iran in 1987 and 1988, just before the end of the Iran-Iraq war. It has also deployed 12 Scud launchers near the DMZ for combat purposes since the end of 1990. The National Defense Ministry estimates that North Korea grossed a total of $4.54 billion in weapons exports, 22.3 percent of its total exports ($20.36 billion), for the 15 years from 1974 to 1989.

In particular, North Korea grossed almost $770 million in 1987, a surprising 51 percent of its total exports ($1.5 billion), when it first exported Scud missiles.

It has been learned that North Korea's newly developed Nodong No. 1 missile, an improved version of Soviet-developed Scud missiles, has a range of 1,000 km. This range includes not only the Korean peninsula but also Kyushu in Japan.

A National Defense Ministry official said: North Korea has outdated military technology for manufacturing electronic equipment and other precision equipment. However, it has advanced technology for manufacturing missiles, tanks, and some other equipment. Therefore, this can pose a serious threat.

As a countermeasure against such a threat, the National Defense Ministry has decided to buy French-made Mistral missiles and is considering buying Patriot missiles, which were in the spotlight during the Gulf war.

It was pointed out, however, that, because the North and South are moving toward achieving reconciliation and cooperation and discussing arms reduction, they must ensure that no arms race takes place and that we must urgently devise plans to prevent North Korea from being lured into developing weapons.

Task Force Preparing for UN Resolution on Libya

SK1903134692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0527 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry has set up a task force, headed by Assistant Foreign Minister in charge of economic affairs Ho-sung, to prepare for passage by the United Nations of a resolution against Libya for refusing to turn over two suspects in the bombing of an airliner over Scotland in 1988.

The resolution, to be passed this weekend or early next week, calls for member nations to submit a report on compliance within 20 days.

Among sanctions the council has been trying to include in the resolution are an embargo on air travel to Libya and arms sales to the country.

The Korean Government earlier discussed emergency measures to evacuate Korean workers in Libya to safe areas if the situation worsens.

Construction Minister Seeking Projects in Taiwan

SK1903133892 Seoul YONHAP in English
0953 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Construction Minister So Yong-taek left for Taiwan Thursday afternoon to discuss measures to improve bilateral cooperation in the construction field.

So is to explore the possibility of Korean enterprises' participation in large-scale construction projects in Taiwan.

He will stay in Taipei until Sunday.

Issuance of PRC Visas to ROK Reporters Noted

SK1903131292 Seoul YONHAP in English
1147 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Beijing, March 19 (OANA-YONHAP)—China is not considering normalizing ties with South Korea at present, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wu Jianmin said Thursday.

Wu was responding to questions by South Korean reporters during his ministry's weekly press conference on comments by Western diplomatic sources that South Korea and China are likely to establish diplomatic ties in the near future.

A group of seven South Korean reporters entered China to cover the National People's Congress. Beijing's decision to accept South Korean reporters was a sudden change of mind from late last month when it rejected press coverage applications by South Korean correspondents in Hong Kong.

Beijing notified the South Korean trade representative here on Tuesday that it will accept the reporters. The seven correspondents in Hong Kong were issued their visas Wednesday morning.

The last time South Korean reporters entered China with press visas was in January last year when Seoul trade representative [as received] opened here.

"The Chinese Foreign Ministry accepted only 12 foreign reporters other than 158 correspondents in Beijing. Seven of the 12 are South Korean reporters," said Shang Haixin, an official at the congress Standing Committee Information Bureau.

"Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao are part of China and therefore cannot be considered foreign countries," Shang told South Korean reporters.

"If these three regions are excluded, South Korea was given the most number of press visas," he said.

"I am happy to see South Korean journalists," Zheng Yunhai, the bureau deputy director, said. Li Xiande, secretary at the All-China Journalists' Association, welcomed them saying "Let's work well together."

Cabinet Instructed To Halt Illegal Campaigning

SK2003071292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0549 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u, saying he deplored the overheated atmosphere of the general election campaign, the mudslinging and the vote buying, instructed the cabinet Friday to deal resolutely with illegal electioneering.

After a regular briefing on state affairs from Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, No issued a stern directive for the cabinet to halt campaign wrongdoing so no "regrettable passage" is written into Korea's political history.

He has repeatedly expressed dismay at the torrent of election law violations and called on the government to eradicate them even after the elections Tuesday.

DLP's Hanmaek Youth League Under Investigation

SK1903133692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0837 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—Prosecutors began Thursday formally looking into charges that the Hanmaek Youth League, a body affiliated with the ruling party, paid students to work on the general election campaign in direct violation of campaign laws.

"We will launch a full investigation if we find there was paid mobilization of students or use of unregistered campaigners," Kim Kyong-han, head of public security at the Seoul district prosecutors' office, said.

This reverses the prosecution's position a day earlier that there was not enough detailed information for suspicion of the group.

Kim said the need for an investigation became apparent during examination of Hanmaek's operation record.

Prosecutors will question Hanmaek Chairman Choe Song-hyok and other league leaders about the group's purpose and how the operation record was written and handed over to the media.

Two students claiming to be former members of Hanmaek told a news conference Wednesday that Hanmaek had "systematically" sent 200 to 500 students to each campaign site to support ruling party candidates and had paid them 20,000 won to 10,000 won a day each.

The election law forbids payment of more than 5,000 won a day or the hiring of unregistered campaigners.

DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] campaign headquarters spokesman Kang Yong-sik said Wednesday that Hanmaek, in operation since late last year, was not created for the general elections or the presidential election but to do "voluntary service."

"It's a functional body of students in support of the platform and policies of the DLP," Kang said.

No subsidies were paid to the group during the election campaign and no money was paid for student mobilization, he said.

Kim Kyong-sin, campaign headquarters spokesman for the main opposition Democratic Party, insisted that the DLP had "bought" students for its election campaign.

"It was clearly revealed that Hanmaek was a servant of the DLP's illegal and unjust election campaign," he charged.

Prosecutors Cracking Down on Election Violators

SK1903135092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 [date as received] (YONHAP)—Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun instructed the nation's prosecutors Thursday to get tough on any violator of the election law with five days away.

As the elections draw nearer, a variety of illegal activities such as buying votes and extortion of money or goods from candidates will surface in large numbers, he said.

"The prosecution seeks harsher punishment of those who violate the National Assembly election law in an effort to uproot every seed of illegal and wrongful electioneering," Kim said.

Kim said the prosecution has booked 422 people for violations of the election law and 25 of them including two candidates were arrested.

Election Committee To Give Money to Parties

SK2003072492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0700 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) announced Friday that 67 companies belonging to the nation's three major economic organizations had given it 5 billion won (6.51 million U.S. dollars) in political funds without naming the recipients.

A spokesman said the CEMC will distribute the money among five parties, including the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, the Democratic Party and the Unification National Party, on Saturday in accordance with the distribution formula prescribed by law.

The CEMC was checking to see if the donations complied with regulations that set a ceiling for company contributions, he said.

Candidates Use Kim Yong-sam Popularity in Pusan

SK2003010092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Mar 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chang-yong]

[Text] Pusan—"To Bring Kim Yong-sam to Chongwadae" is the most appealing theme in general election campaigns in this port city though the slogan is facing bitter repercussions even in Kim's Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and in the rest of the nation.

All the candidates, whether in the opposition array or without party affiliation, determine Pusan citizens have reached the consensus that the second largest city should give birth to the president and none would challenge his ever-increasing popularity.

Rather, they are trying to ride on the Y-S (Kim Yong-sam) boom," originally meant for DLP nominees.

While ruling party nominees, irrespective of their factions in the DLP, are competing to show loyalty to their executive chairman, opposition contenders are reserving any criticism of Kim Yong-sam in their pamphlets and stumping speeches and only focusing on denunciation of President No Tae-u.

The DLP intends to sweep all 16 Pusan districts and most of the 23 in bordering Kyongsangnam-to but it is now in hard fighting at least in four precincts in this city alone.

Rep. Kim Kwang-il of the Unification National Party is leading the race with former Pusan Mayor Chong Sang-chon from the DLP in Chung-ku district by dint of long legal service to the residents as a lawyer and financing by his well-heeled party, analysts here said.

He has to overcome the disadvantage of his revolt against Kim Yong-sam during the latter's coalition with No's party two years ago, with the propaganda the tripartite merger has contrarily weakened the long-time opposition leader's chance for the presidency.

Kim Yong-sam is actually being checked by the majority No faction, plus a minority led by Kim Chong-pil, despite his second-highest position.

Still unassured of his presidential candidacy due to his smaller group in the DLP, Kim Yong-sam stakes his political fate on the outcome of legislative elections, fanning up the regionalism in his fortress in a bid to lead it nationwide.

Kim Kwang-il has recently changed his high-key campaign strategy and wooed residents. His slogan is that he would be the "next-generation political leader capable of succeeding Y-S, not opposing his presidential ambitions."

Another front-runner is Kim Chung-kil, floor leader of the Democratic Party [DP], being challenged by Kim Hyong-o, a political novice who served as political secretary to the prime minister and then to the president and is branded as a No man, not loyal to Kim Yong-sam.

DP spokesman No Mu-hyon, who has become a hero in questioning big shots in a nationally-televised Assembly hearing on the abuse of power by the previous Chon Tu-hwan administration, still enjoys a good reputation.

But the broad disgust of his party and rumors about his fortune are foundering his defensive posture in the neck-and-neck race with Ho Sam-su, Chon's senior secretary for inspection, analysts said.

Ho, an undisputed Chon deputy, made a debut in the political theater with the concession of a local chapter by Kim Yong-sam who sought a reconciliation with Chon's force remaining in the DLP as soon as he took over the day-to-day control of the giant government party.

"You know even Ho Mun-to, unification minister in the Chon administration, dashed to the airport to welcome Kim Yong-sam. An independent, Ho had been harshly critical of him. That shows how strong the Y-S wind is blowing here," a campaign manager for No said.

"The DP is bluntly associated with Kim Tae-chung, the archrival of Y-S. Our explanation that the DP is coheaded by Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek only falls on deaf ears," he complained. Yongnam people in Pusan and Kyongsang provinces have long been in rivalry with Honam residents in Kwangju and its neighboring Cholla provinces.

The situation is totally different in Saha district where an independent finds no match both in the ruling and opposition quarters.

In an attempt to ensure the success of his political protege, So Seok-jae, Kim Yong-sam nominated So's secretary for Saha and the DLP nominee, Yi Chae-kuk, is indirectly campaigning for his former boss. So, secretary general for Kim's former party, legally severed ties with Kim Yong-sam when he was indicted for his bribe of a rival for his party's candidate in an April 1989 by-election.

Pusan citizens generally feel a sense of discrimination in government-ordered development projects in comparison with the neighboring third largest city of Taegu and Kyongsangpuk-to which produced three presidents, No and his immediate predecessors, one analyst said. "They wish to wipe out the humiliating mood by pushing Y-S to the presidency."

Pusan, long classifed as an opposition stronghold, has turned pro-government since Kim Yong-sam joined hands with No two years ago and gave a landslide victory to DLP nominees in last year's local council elections.

General Election Campaigns Enter Final Stage

SK2003013192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0100 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—Campaigning for Tuesday's general elections entered the final stretch Friday, with many parties and candidates holding their last rallies in provincial cities.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), and Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek, co-leaders of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP], have scheduled news conferences for Saturday to reiterate their positions and make one last appeal for votes through the news media.

Also Saturday, party candidates will hold 181 joint campaign rallies in Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju and other major cities in their efforts to sway the 40 percent to 50 percent of voters who they believe are still undecided in their choice of candidates for the 14th National Assembly.

The main opposition party plans a massive rally Saturday at Changchundan Park in Seoul, attended by many leaders and by functionaries of its local chapters.

Against the opposition move, the ruling party is to hold separate rallies in each electoral district in Seoul and its satellite cities.

At the mid-point of its campaign, the DLP analyzed its polls and decided that out of the 237 constituencies, DLP candidates were leading or at least holding a slight edge in only 96.

DLP analysts estimate that in 86 districts, mostly in the Seoul metropolitan area, no single candidate has emerged as the clear leader so far, and so the party is to do its best over the weekend to swing the undecided into its camp.

Specifically, DLP leaders and candidates are to stress the success of the government's northern policy and promise to build 20,000 homes for citizens, particularly of low-income groups.

The ruling party will tout government plans to revitalize the country's sagging economy and list the adverse effects of having a political party controlled by a major industrialist.

The DP is expected to continue to campaign in its power base of the Cholla provinces Friday before leaders Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek return to Seoul for the planned big rally.

As of Friday, the DP believed its candidates were leading in 23 districts in Seoul and 37 in the Cholla provinces. It plans to concentrate on 10 other districts in Seoul in an effort to win at least 80 seats in the National Assembly.

Hyundai Suspending Normal Operations To Aid UNP

SK2003041692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0358 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—Virtually every company in the Hyundai Group is believed to have come out in support of the Unification National Party [UNP], formed and led by the founder of the group, Chong Chu-yong, sources at the conglomerate said Friday.

They have virtually suspended normal business until election day and thrown most of their 156,000 executives and employees into the campaign fray, supporting UNP candidates across the country, the sources said.

A group-wide "Support UNP" campaign is being managed by a "System Improvement Committee" headed by the chairman of Hyundai Securities Co. the committee is directly involved in the election campaign, preparing propaganda and organizing programs for UNP district chapters.

Companies and distributors have been assigned districts to support, with Hyundai Corp. getting Kuro-b in Seoul and Hyundai engineering and construction being alloted Seoul's Chongno District.

Group executives are province-level chief support organizers, managers are chief "tong" (the smallest administrative unit) organizers, and assistant managers are "pan" (neighborhood) chiefs, according to the sources.

Before mobilizing them in support of the UNP, Hyundai worked hard to win the hearts of its employees first.

Everyone with the rank of section chief and above was given a 40- or 80-kg bag of rice from Chong's vast farm near Sosan.

Affiliates have furnished equipment to the party, including a helicopter from Hyundai heavy industries, 400 cars and mini-buses from Hyundai motor and Hyundai precision industry, office furniture from Hyundai Wood Industry, and telephones, facsimiles, walkie-talkies, etc. from Hyundai electronics industry.

Labor Ministry Investigating Hyundai Employees

SK2003073492 Seoul YONHAP in English
0708 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—The Labor Ministry is to investigate employees of the Hyundai Group who left to work on the Unification National Party's election campaign, Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol said Friday.

The party was set up by the group's founder, Chong Chu-yong.

Choe told a group of business executives at a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Korea Management Association that the ministry would investigate how many workers had left and if they had received appropriate compensation upon separation.

Participation in politics was a private affair, but it was undesirable for it to leave a vacuum in business operations, the minister said.

Whatever aspiring politicians did, Hyundai ought to keep its workers in place and proceed on its way, he said.

Choe insisted on separation of business and politics, and said no company should suffer as a result of a businessman's errors.

Business Leaders Comment on Chong Chu-yong

Former Hyundai Chairman Cited

SK2003022092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0123 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—Yi Myong-pak, a former chairman of Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co., said Thursday that he joined the ruling party out of political conviction and not because he was asked to counter-balance the Unification National Party [UNP] founded by Hyundai Group owner Chong Chu-yong.

"Nobody in the Democratic Liberal Party asked me to play such a role. Nor would I do so even if I were asked to," he told a news conference.

Yi left Hyundai around the time Chong resigned as honorary chairman and inaugurated the UNP in January. He was nominated by the DLP for a seat in the National Assembly under the proportional representation system soon afterward.

Yi, meeting with reporters at the education and culture hall in southern Seoul, said that when Chong first aired his plan to go into politics, he and a number of others around Chong advised the industrialist against it.

"I opposed the idea because if Chong created a party, Hyundai affiliates would get dragged into it in one way or another," he said. "I know the ex-chairman said he would keep politics and business separate, but reality doesn't allow it."

On the economy, Yi suggested forming a high-powered private economic commission to find ways to revitalize the economy.

"Our economy has grown too big to be healed by mere policies or economic theories," he said.

Asked if he planned to run for Seoul mayor, as widely rumored, Yi said: "No."

"If I say I will, Seoul citizens will say 'we don't have your name in mind'," Yi said.

Daewoo Chief Comments

SK2003121292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0827 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—Daewoo group chairman Kim U-chung had some unkind words Friday for

Hyundai Group owner Chong Chu-yong over his launching a political party, but denied that political success for Chong would spell trouble for Daewoo.

"It is unfortunate for us all when enterprisers join the political circle... Industrialists should do their best (to improve business conditions), instead of blaming politics," Kim told reporters.

"It's Hyundai that has earned the most contracts without bidding and engaged in unfair competition. If contracts without bidding are banned as unfair transactions, Daewoo will have more chances for fair competition," he said when asked about the widespread notion that Daewoo would suffer if Chong Chu-yong's Unification National Party formed a negotiating body by winning 20 seats.

Kim said there was no need to worry "as politics does not mean the elimination of rivals, and as society has become pluralistic, social justice will not be destroyed by a new political force."

He said he was considering establishing a course for political leadership training after 1995, to produce political leaders who would be able to positively deal with worldwide changes.

Government Attempting To Limit Budget Expansion

SK2003071192 Seoul YONHAP in English
0630 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—The government said in a White Paper Friday that it would hold down financial expansion in next year's budget to try to build a base for economic stability.

The "basic direction of financial operation in 1993," released by the Economic Planning Board [EPB], said the budget would be worked out with emphasis on bolstering the role of public finance in economic stability.

The government will minimize expansion of personnel, administrative and current account expenses while maintaining the total financial volume at an optimum level.

The plan indicates that financial programs are in for some belt-tightening. For several years, the general account sector of the budget has expanded at an annual rate of around 20 percent.

An EPB official said minimal expansion of financial volume was needed because of an expected decline in internal revenues prompted by dullness in domestic demand and reduced tariff revenue caused by steady downward tariff readjustment under market opening.

The government would pour limited financial resources into preferentially strengthening the competitiveness of manufacturing, expanding social overhead capital and enhancing people's wellbeing, he said.

Government offices will be asked to make budget requests that do not exceed a 30-percent increase over this year for major projects and a 5- to 10-percent rise for routine projects and general expenses.

Seoul Not Aiding Companies Facing Bankruptcy

SK2003032292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0236 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—The government will not bail out companies caught in a cash crunch and facing bankruptcy, a high-ranking government official said Friday.

Despite the bankruptcies this week of Non-No, a leading garment maker, and Samho Co., a deep-sea fishing and marine product processing firm, the government saw no reason to take extraordinary steps, he said.

Neither would banking institutions make loans to keep troubled companies solvent, he added.

"Bankruptcy is attributable to internal problems such as a shortage of money and mismanagement stemming from overheated competition and sluggish sales," the official said, denying that bankruptcy is the result of a shortage of cash in money markets.

The government would consider additional, limited loans to help export-oriented industries and manufacturing businesses survive, however, he said.

The government still intended to keep the money supply at 18 percent and companies would have to be elastic to cope with the hard times, he said.

Government Freezing Prices on Food, Other Items

SK2003121092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0809 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 20 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to freeze prices of 20 daily necessities such as coal briquets, cooking gas, telephone calls and electricity until the end of this year.

It has designated 1992 "the year of stabilizing prices for individual services" and will try to hold down prices of food at popular restaurants and fees at public bath houses while providing 50 billion won in loans to help low-income people pay their rent.

Moreover, the government has selected 30 items, including rice, cabbage and other farm products, sugar and underwear, and will check the movement of their prices every month.

The decisions were contained in a report submitted by Choe Kak-kyu, deputy prime minister and head of the Economic Planning Board, to President No Tae-u at an economic ministers meeting Friday.

Choe told the president that consumer prices in the first two and a half months of this year rose only 2.5 percent, compared with a 4.9-percent increase in the same period a year earlier. Especially, the prices of 20 basic daily

necessities registered an average increase of 1.8 percent, compared with a rise of 3.6 percent a year ago.

The country's exports, meanwhile, rose 11 percent in the first two and a half months, to March 15, over the same period a year ago to 16.9 billion U.S. dollars while imports rose 7.3 percent to 20.9 billion dollars, Choe said.

If the nation proceeds in its efforts to improve the quality of its industrial products and keeps up its export drive while holding imports down, Choe said, there could be considerable improvement in the international balance of payments deficit and price instability.

Regarding monetary management, Choe said that, as of March 15, there have been drops of 23.3 billion won in total currency in circulation and 1.63 trillion won in demand deposits while there was an increase of 64.7 billion won in savings deposits.

The government is maintaining the rate of total currency increase at 18.5 percent this month, Choe added.

Burma

Minister Discusses Bangladesh Border Issue

BK1903161592 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Speech by Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw at a special news conference on the Burma-Bangladesh border situation held at the No. 2 Defense Services Guest House in Rangoon on 19 March—recorded]

[Text] Distinguished guests, representatives of the press corps, ladies, and gentlemen: I am here today to inform you of the full perspective about the current situation at the Myanmar [Burma]-Bangladesh border. For the past few months, some foreign media sources have published fabricated reports that Myanmar people who professed the Muslim faith were being oppressed by the Myanmar Government and were fleeing across the border to Bangladesh. These exaggerated and biased reports have led certain countries in the West and in the region and some international institutions to misunderstand Myanmar's good intentions in solving what is essentially a bilateral immigration problem.

I would like to begin by explaining the sequence of developments which led to certain measures taken unilaterally on the part of Bangladesh, and all of you present in this room would recall that at the invitation of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, the minister for foreign affairs of Bangladesh and his delegation paid a visit to Myanmar from 21 to 23 November 1991, and fruitful discussions were held by the two sides on numerous issues following national, bilateral, regional, and international spheres. During the course of the discussions led by the two foreign ministers the important bilateral issue, so-called cross-border human traffic, and the need to look into the legal and illegal aspects of the matter, was discussed at length by the two sides.

On a particular issue, it was agreed that the mechanism already existed to resolve the validity, or lack of it, of the residency status in Myanmar of these who had chosen to cross over to the other side. It is explained that at length, investigations made by the Myanmar immigration authorities revealed that individuals numbering some 2,344 were absent when on-ground inspections were made of the household list of residents of the areas bordering Bangladesh. It was also explained by the Myanmar side that these absentees could be traveling elsewhere within the country or indeed actually be in Bangladesh. To investigate this matter and to ascertain the whereabouts of these absentees, it was agreed between the two sides that Bangladesh would provide a list of those who claim to be legal residents on the Myanmar side. This list would be accepted by the Myanmar authorities who on their part would investigate each case, and the legal residents would be accepted for residency in Myanmar. In the past few days, a list from the Bangladesh side has been received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the list is currently being processed by the authorities concerned.

It may be added that as the Bangladesh foreign minister had paid a visit to Myanmar, it was customary that he would extend an invitation to his Myanmar counterpart to pay a return visit to Bangladesh. The invitation was accepted by the Myanmar foreign minister who agreed to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient date, and this visit can materialize should there be a need to take further action, especially on a matter of the cross border human traffic, if the agreed mechanism just mentioned is not functioning smoothly. We see no necessity for the visit at present, as the existing mechanism is functioning well as earlier explained.

However, in spite of these agreed procedures established on the legal residence status of the persons in question, in order to pursue this path on a bilateral basis, it is regrettable that certain actions of the media, which harbor ill-will against Myanmar, have undertaken to give widespread and biased publicity against the country. In addition, there exist the unnecessary activities on the part of Bangladesh, which is disseminating biased, unbalanced, and unsubstantiated reports to the diplomatic community in Dhaka and elsewhere in the world. As for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have undertaken the present picture in true perspective by issuing two press releases on 16 January and 21 February. Yet, there are those present who have not yet received copies of these press releases. We will be pleased to hand out these releases for widespread dissemination. We shall continue to issue such press releases as and when necessary.

May I take this opportunity to stress that there exists an interrelationship between the insurgency in the country and the so-called cross-border human traffic? It is mostly clear that the issue has been exacerbated by the various terrorist groups operating in the area and their connection with the active support received from terrorist groups that operate elsewhere within and without the country. These terrorist groups and their supporters have been fabricating malicious stories of atrocities said to have been committed by the Myanmar security forces, inciting Muslims to flee across the border. What is amazing is that they have been able to mislead some countries and organizations with their disinformation campaigns.

In spite of the widespread reports in the international media, it is acknowledged by foreign governments up to the present day, that the Myanmar Defense Services personnel are among the most disciplined, loyal, and effective fighting forces that exist in the world. This noble tradition of our Armed Forces will continue to be upheld in the future.

The rationale of the issue in Myanmar's stand is that the matter is essentially an illegal immigration problem that is in the process of being resolved bilaterally, in spite of the activities of some with ulterior motives against the

Union of Myanmar. On the other hand, we are encouraged by our friends abroad, and indeed among the diplomatic community in this very room, who have offered their understanding in our worthy endeavors and have suggested constructively that we should be more candid and more forthcoming in our words and actions in expounding our valid position in the matter, to enable us to effectively counter the unfair publicity directed against us.

On our part, constructive plans are under way with arrangements that will be made for the diplomatic corps and the services attaches corps to visit the border areas to enable them to personally observe and ascertain for themselves the true situation that exists in the area.

As the saying goes, seeing is believing, and we are as confident as those of you in the diplomatic corps who could see that the complete and balanced picture has not yet emerged, and that you will be able to put matters in their true perspective once the truth is seen before your own eyes. Furthermore, as some parties persist in attempting to internationalize for ulterior motives what is essentially a bilateral issue, Myanmar on its part will also respond appropriately in the form of arrangements now under way to invite to Myanmar, United Nations Under Secretary General Mr. Jan Eliasson, disaster relief coordinator, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, to ascertain for himself and report the true situation without having to resort to concocted stories of nonexistent religious persecutions, torture, and the like.

Here it would be pertinent to mention that Myanmar has been renowned for its religious tolerance, both in law and in practice, as all Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, and those of other religious affiliations who inhabit our land peacefully coexist in complete harmony. Let those who accuse us of religious persecution compare our standard of religious tolerance to their own societies, and let them not infect our Myanmar Society with their standards of religious intolerance, for such religious tolerance is contrary to the teachings of the Great Prophet Mohammad, of Christ the Saviour, and Buddha, the Enlightened One.

In conclusion, may I say that the situation in the Myanmar-Bangladesh border can in no way be seen as a threat to regional stability. Myanmar is confident that a just solution will be found in conformity with existing laws of the land and in accordance with the agreement in effect betwen the two countries. On its part, Myanmar has always extended and will continue to extend goodwill and understanding toward all countries, especially our immediate neighbors, based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence which forms the basis of our independent and active foreign policy. I thank you very much.

Potential Health Problems for Rohingyas Noted

BK1903091192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 19 Mar 92

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Balu Khali Camp, Bangladesh, March 19 (AFP)—Children form the majority of the Burmese refugees fleeing alleged atrocities at home, and need urgent medical attention to fight diseases before the monsoon begins, officials and doctors said.

"The refugees are poor and their children are mostly malnourished, suffering from fear and shock, besides suffering from other diseases," said to AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] S.M. Rahim, the government doctor in charge of this camp on the hillslopes [as received].

He said most were communicable diseases like measles, chicken pox, dysentery, skin diseases and diarrhoea, besides respiratory infections.

Malnourished children were also easy victims, he said, adding "we know children are naturally suffering from psychological problems like fear, but under emergency situations this is lower in priority."

The thousands of refugees, known as Rohingya Muslims, are fleeing to eastern Bangladesh from their homes in Burma's Arakan Province, alleging widespread atrocities by Burmese troops which they say have increased in recent days.

Most doctors see a "major health crisis" looming with the monsoon starting sometime this month, as many refugees are still living outdoors in camps that have sprung up. Malaria is a likely problem, they said.

"I fled with my family because Burmese troops were taking boys to work as labourers and many did not return," 10-year-old Saidur Rahman said, fear still very visible on his face.

"We were told they were killed after failing to carry heavy sacks," he said.

Rahman had skin infections and fever, which doctors said were respectively from malnutrition and cold.

Eight-year-old Halima Khatun, another refugee, said pointing to two militias watching: "they resemble Burmese soldiers."

Of 12,006 refugees in Kutu Palong Camp, [number indistinct] were children, while in this camp of the 20,000, more than 8,000 were under five. The rest were children above 10 and adults.

Officials said children formed the majority in 10 camps, while two per cent of the women were pregnant. A total of 187 babies were born since January, they said.

The influx of Burmese refugees continues daily, pushing the overall number close to 200,000 Thursday, officials said, adding that the flow rate had come down slightly.

M. Abdul Huque, the officer heading this camp said the refugees had no knowiedege of family planning and had several wives.

"Making children is their only entertainment," he added.

UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees], Bangladesh Red Crescent and Bangladeshi officials said they had no separate plans for treating children psychologically, but Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF or Doctors Without Borders) were working on malnutrition cases.

MSF's paramedic, Catherine Lefebre, said their program was moderate considering the age number [as received] of children. Seventy per cent suffered from severe malnutrition, she said.

Doctors and relief workers said they urgently needed anti-measles and pox vaccinations along with those to treat diarrhoea as well as dysentery. "Blood dysentery and diarrhoea are killing most children," one doctor said.

"Unless emergency medicines to treat them reach us soon it will be a serious situation as the number of doctors are too small to deal with the current situation, and if health conditions deteriorate fast with rains we do not know what will happen," he said, requesting anonimity.

G. Rahman Shajahan, a doctor, said "the children's health condition is very serious, besides fear due to experiences at home, they are also scared with fast moving vehicles which is a new experience for them."

Rangoon To Continue Pressure on Karens

BK2003020192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Burma has told Thailand it will not give up its bid to overrun the Karen National Union's Kawmoorah Camp and has committed about 1,000 fresh troops to the offensive.

In a letter sent to the Thai authorities in the local Thai-Burmese Border Committee yesterday, chairman of the Burmese side of the committee, Lt-Col Sein Win said the suppression drive against the Karen rebels would continue until it accomplished its objectives.

The letter was a reply to a warning by Thai authorities on Tuesday that the kingdom's armed forces would retaliate if foreign forces intruded on Thai soil.

Lt-Col Sein Win also accused Thailand of helping the KNU resist the Burmese suppression drive.

Meanwhile, a military source said about 1,000 fresh Burmese troops arrived at Thingan Nyi Naung, about 12 kilometres west of the Thai-Burmese border on Wednesday.

Third Army Corps commander Lt-Gen Yingyot Chotiphimai, commander of Thai border defence forces, yesterday made an inspection trip to Ban Wang Kaeo. The Moei River separates these Thai border villages from Kawmoorah Camp.

Thai rangers yesterday found eleven dead Burmese soldiers at Ban Nong Wua Daeng which was occupied by about 100 Burmese soldiers on March 14 to attack the Karen camp from the rear after crossing into Thai territory.

Sixty 52mm mortar rounds, 14 RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] rockets and 2 rounds of 84mm recoilless rifle ammunition and a large quantity of field gear were also recovered.

The source said Burmese troops that had occupied Ban Nong Wua Daeng had withdrawn.

Burmese troops yesterday bombarded Kawmoorah Camp with about 50 mortar rounds, three of which landed at Ban Wang Kaeo on the Thai side causing no damage or casualties.

The source said a large number of Burmese villagers along the border at Ban Mae Ka Naing, Ban Mae Palep and Ban Huay San had been recruited to work as porters to deliver ammunition and supplies to the battle front.

Meanwhile Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said Thailand treated the constructive engagement policy towards Burma, and the intrusion by Burmese troops on Thai soil, as separate issues.

According to the spokesman, Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw told his Thai counterpart Asa Sarasin on Monday that Burma had no intention of trespassing on Thai soil and only wanted to suppress insurgency.

Burmese Ambassador to Thailand, U Nyunt Swe was summoned for a meeting with senior Thai officials yesterday, in which the envoy promised to convey the Thai request to Rangoon.

Mr Sakthip said there will be no protest from the Thai side as the two governments had already talked about the issue.

Rangoon Fire Leaves 20,000 Homeless

BK1903165392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Excerpts] A fire, due to negligence, broke out from the house of Daw Chaw, a boiled-bean seller and daughter of U Tun Yin, residing at 469, Bonma 12th street, Nya Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon [Rangoon] Division, at 1345 this afterenoon. The fire ravaged Bonma 12th to 19th streets, crossed the Waybargi main

road and spread to the east side of Khaymar Kyaung street in Htawunbe Ward. [passage omitted]

The fire was brought under control at 1710.

About 2,000 houses were destroyed by the fire and 20,000 people from 3,000 households were rendered homeless.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Foreign Minister Hosts Dinner for SRV Premier

BK2003103992 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETINN in English 2 Mar 92 p 1

[By Cal Iskandar]

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Hj. Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs as a personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan [Ruler] Negara Brunei Darussalam on Saturday [29 February] hosted a dinner to the visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Vo Van Kiet.

In his sabda [speech] the prince said it is good to see that the new relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam is already producing some solid results such as the air-services agreement which was signed in Hanoi last November.

He said he was sure that both countries can now look forward to regular exchange visits and contact between the two people.

"We have seen many changes these days and added that the cold war is over and in our part of the world, the peace agreement on Cambodia has been signed."

He further stated that it meant new opportunities are opening up in Southeast Asia.

The prince said that Negara Brunei Darussalam is pleased to see the effort the Vietnamese government is making to help build a stable and peaceful region.

Vietnam's intention to sign a Treaty of Amity in cooperation is a significant contribution, he added.

Malaysia

Minister To Go Through UN on Rohingya Issue

BK1903142692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia's actions on the plight of Myanmar [Burma] Rohinya refugees to Bangladesh will be made via the United Nations [UN] and not directly with Myanmar. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it would only be proper for Malaysia to openly declare its firm stand on the matter and any of the necessary action by the UN.

He told reporters that he had submitted to the cabinet the report which he received from the Malaysian High Commission in Bangladesh on the plight of the Rohingya Muslims.

Last week the cabinet, via the Foreign Ministry, directed Malaysian High Commission in Bangladesh to get a full report on the matter. The report, among other things, stated that about 200,000 Rohingya Muslims had fled to Bangladesh and the oppression against these people was continuing.

Datuk Abdullah also said that his Bangladesh counterpart A.S.M. Mustafizur had telephoned him recently to express his country's gratitude for Malaysia's firm stand on the refugee problem. Mustafizur had also said that the refugee problem was a burden to Bangladesh which looks for assistance from friendly nations and the UN.

On Singapore's ban on Malaysians using Malaysian-registered cars to work in the republic, he said he was looking into the pros and cons of the matter. He said Singapore should have informed Malaysia prior to implementing the move.

Military Vehicles Bound for Cambodia

BK1903112792 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Mar 92 p 1

[By Gerald Chuah]

[Text] It was a sight to behold as rows of army vehicles ranging from the tough and versatile Land Rovers to mobile field kitchens painted in the United Nations colours await loading onto a ship bound for Cambodia.

The vehicles being deployed include 30 trucks, three scramblers, 20 water tankers, five ambulances, cargo trailers, two forklifts and a crane.

The vehicles and 45 containers of supplies such as rations, tents, communication sets, wood for building purposes, tyres, sandbags and clothing will be shipped to Shatahip, Thailand.

From the Thai port, the vehicles and supplies will be handed over to the 850-strong 1st Royal Rangers who are members of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia peacekeeping force.

The Rangers' advance party of 47 men left on Sunday while the remaining 803 will leave Senai, Johor, on Wednesday [25 Mar].

The equipment and supplies are being loaded on the MV Alam Indah, a multicargo vessel chartered from the Malaysian Shipping Agency.

From Port Klang, the ship will sail for Pasir Gudang in Johor, before leaving for Shatahip on Friday. It is expected to arrive at the Thai port the next day.

It will take two days for the equipment and supplies to be unloaded.

Captain G. Shankar, who is Staff Officer Three of the Logistics Command Headquarters in the Defence Ministry, is supervising the operation. He said 65 per cent of the supplies would be loaded at Port Klang.

"The remaining supplies will be loaded at Pasir Gudang," he said.

He added that loading at Port Klang would be completed by 6 pm today.

Shankar said the convoy would make a 750-km jouney from Shatahip to Battambang where the Rangers are to be based.

Their task is to supervise the 300,000 Cambodian refugees returning to their homeland and collect arms from the warring parties.

Meanwhile, a separate team of four officers—Lt Col [Lieutenant Colonel] Kol P. Selvam, Shankar, S/Sjn [Staff Sergeant] Mohamed—will coordinate the movement of the vehicles and supplies in Cambodia.

Documents Gathered To Back Island Claim

BK1903123892 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues.—Malaysia is preparing legal documents to back its claim on Pulau Batu Putih [Pedra Branca] which is situated off the coast of Johor.

Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said today the Attorney-General's office was responsible for gathering the legal documents.

He said Wisma Putra [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] officials were helping the Attorney-General's office in gathering the documents.

"It is up to the officials to secure the documents," he added.

Dr. Abdullah said Malaysian and Singaporean officials were expected to fix a date for a meeting to discuss the issue when documents had been finalised.

He said the two countries had agreed that the ownership of the island would be determined by legal documents and through negotiations.

Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng said yesterday the republic wanted to solve the dispute fast because the issue could affect bilateral relations.

He said Singapore had asked Malaysian officials to fix a meeting at the earliest opportunity to discuss the legal documents.

Sarawak Deports British Writer Barclay

BK1903130692 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Mar 92 p 13

[Excerpts] Miri, Tues.—British writer James Barclay, who used three different names to enter Sarawak and was detained at the Lambir prison for a month, has been deported from the State.

Barclay, 39, who also used the names Peter Smith and John Wilson to visit the State, left here for Kuala Lumpur on Malaysia Airlines flight MH549 at 2.40 pm yesterday. He was escorted by an Immigration officer.

From Kuala Lumpur, he departed for London.

He first entered Sarawak in the late 1970s while he was working in Brunei. Later, he made several visits to Baram to write about his travels and sexual exploits for his book entitled "A stroll through Borneo".

In his book, he made many unsavoury remarks about the Orang Ulu [Tribes People] and depicted them as a backward and subservient race. [passage omitted]

Barclay also told police that his last visit was to see his four-month-old daughter whom he fathered with a young Kayan woman from Long Laput. The woman and her daughter were at the airport to see him off.

Police detained him on Feb 15 in the presence of a woman.

Mahathir Expresses Support for Lord President

BK1903104392 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues.—Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed tonight came out in support of Lord President Tun Abdul Hamid Omar who called on members of the Malaysian Bar who do not recognise his appointment not to appear before him in court.

Dr Mahathir said it was the Lord President's prerogative to do so as it would be peculiar for someone who did not recognise his (Tun Hamid's) appointment to appear before him (in court).

"If one does not recognise the Lord President it is not fair for a lawyer to appear before him. It looks peculiar," he said when asked to comment on Hamid's call to lawyers, after breaking of fast at Tabung Haji (The Pilgrims Management and Fund Board) tonight.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Sri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali entertained orphans from the Federal Territory Muslim Orphans Welfare Association. Dr Siti Hasmah later presented Hari Raya gifts to the orphans.

Dr Mahathir also said that the position of the Lord President would not be affected despite the Bar Council's rejection as the council had no right to determine his status.

Earlier, when speaking at the gifts presentation ceremony for the orphans, Dr Mahathir said the people's contributions to the needy would result in a more loving society and caring community.

However, he said the recipients should not always think that they could live from peole's aid and contributions all the time.

It would be better for the people to learn to be self-reliant as they would be more respected, he added.

Burmese National Held on Heroin Conspiracy Charge

BK2003033392 Penang THE STAR in English 17 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur: The hearing on the extradition of a Myanmar [Burma] citizen by the American authorities for trial on conspiracy to import heroin into the United States has been set for April 8 in a magistrate's court here.

Magistrate B.K. Chan allowed DPP [Deputy Public Prosecutor] Lee Yeok Lin's request to set a future date, pending a formal order from the Home Ministry.

Lin Chien Pang was arrested in a hotel in Jalan Puduraya on Sunday by the police on behalf of a US district court in New York which had issued a warrant for his arrest.

Lin is remanded in Pudu Prison.

Cambodia

Arrival of UNTAC Head Akashi Welcomed

BK2003035992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Article: "Cambodia Can Regain Peace and Independence Only After the UN Transitional Authority and Quadripartite Cambodian Supreme National Council Jointly Implement the Paris Agreement Correctly and Strictly in Line With Its Essence"]

[Text] On 15 March upon his arrival in Phnom Penh, Mr. Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], said that he would closely cooperate with the quadripartite Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia to successfully carry out the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

The Cambodian nation and people and Cambodian national resistance forces joyfully and wholeheartedly welcome the arrival of Mr. Akashi and all his colleagues and hope that as the special envoy of the UN secretary general and head of the UNTAC, Mr. Akashi will lead the UNTAC in cooperation with the quadripartite SNC to carry out this historic task to fully implement the Paris agreement in line with its real essence.

The essence of the 23 October Paris agreement is:

1. The UNTAC and quadripartite SNC are to supervise the total withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and prevent these Vietnamese forces and weapons from returning to Cambodia.

2. The dismantling of the four Cambodian factions' Armed Forces, beginning from 70 percent until all of them are dismantled.

Only after these two problems are settled simultaneously can Cambodia regain peace and independence and can there be favorable conditions for neutral political atmosphere and national reconciliation for holding a free and correct election.

Son Sen Proposes Checkpoints

BK2003032792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Mar 92

["Letter from His Excellency Son Sen, member of the Supreme National Council and supreme commander of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, to His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the secretary general of the United Nations;" dated 17 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 17 March 1992

To His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general in Phnom Penh

Your Excellency: With an aim to partake in supervising the total withdrawal of all categories of foreign forces from Cambodia and in preventing these forces from returning to Cambodia, I am honored to propose setting up a number of checkpoints as follows:

A. Along the Vietnamese border:
1. Phnum Den in Takeo Province;
2. Prek Chrey in Kandal Province;
3. K'am Samnar in Kandal Province;
4. Bavet in Svay Rieng Province;
5. Krek in Kompong Cham Province;
6. Snuol at the junction of Routes 7 and 13 in Kratie Province;
7. Dak Dam in Mondolkiri Province;
8. O Phlae at the crossway of Sre Pok and Sre O Phlae rivers in Mondolkiri Province;
9. O Leav in Ratanakiri Province;
10. Phnum Kuk near O Tang in Ratanakiri Province;
11. O Ya Dao in Ratanakiri Province.

B. Along the Lao border:
1. Siem Pang in Stung Treng Province;
2. Kompong Sralau in Stung Treng Province.
3. The joint border of Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.

Moreover, I would like to propose permanent deployment of the four Cambodian factions at all checkpoints

of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to jointly carry out the supervision.

Please accept my highest regards.

[Signed] Son Sen, member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and supreme commander of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea

Military Group Fails To Agree To Stop Fighting

BK2003065892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Sherri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 20 (AFP)—A committee of Cambodian generals meeting Friday for the first time under UN peacekeeping supervision failed to agree to stop the fighting in central Cambodia.

Lieutenant General John Sanderson, who heads the military contingent of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said he could not deploy peacekeeping troops to the area of Kompong Thom until they stopped the "minor military contacts (that are) still enough to be a concern."

Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces have been fighting since January, and the violations of the cease-fire agreed during last year's peace process to end the civil war have been serious, the United Nations has said.

"I said we would deploy when we understand exactly what there was to supervise," Sanderson said. "When we put UN forces into the field it has to be for a specific reason."

UN forces need to run reconnaissance missions in the province, where already one UN military official was injured on such a mission when forces believed to be Khmer Rouge fired on the UN helicopter.

The four factions did agree to negotiate a cease-fire which would involve withdrawing their forces from disputed areas.

"We are going to have to negotiate a number of specific locations around the countryside," Sanderson said, a process that will involve daily meetings at a low-level before the generals come together again next week.

Under dispute is a Khmer Rouge north-south supply route that crosses National Route 6 from Kompong Thom to the provincial capital, Siem Reap.

Fighting is also taking place on Route 12.

Cambodia's roads have been under the control of the Phnom Penh government, but fighting is breaking out at points where Khmer Rouge lines cross them.

"Some attacks there are still occurring," said Phnom Penh Army General Ke Kim Yan. "They (the Khmer Rouge) are attacking my forces."

He said Khmer Rouge generals at the meeting said they had to consult their defense minister, Son Sen, before making any decisions.

The Khmer Rouge's inability to make decisions at this level is a problem for the United Nations, Sanderson said.

"I told them it is vital to make decisions in the Mixed Military Working Group," Sanderson said.

Sources in UNTAC said the United Nations was considering having Son Sen and the other factions' defense ministers attend the meetings if the indecision continues.

Sanderson said he was willing to try to continue at this level before upping the stakes, giving all factions advance warning of what would be discussed so their representatives would be prepared to make decisions.

Another Phnom Penh Army general, Mol Roeup, said that while Khmer Rouge forces were attacking his forces, "My position is to solve it by politics."

He said his side would prefer the negotiating table to launching counterattacks.

The earliest decision about UN deployment to Kompong Thom would be at the next meeting of generals on March 27.

Hun Sen Meets UNHCR Representative 18 Mar

BK2003073192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 March at the office of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, met and held talks with [name indistinct], representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], who is in charge of the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

They discussed the process for repatriation of about 350,000 refugees from Thailand, security matters, demining, the distribution of aid in the form of farm tools and the arrangement of housing for the returnees, and the cooperation between the UNHCR and the Cambodian Red Cross.

H.E. Hun Sen made a proposal to the UNHCR [words indistinct] shortage of schools and hospitals for the returnees who will return home in the near future.

Hun Sen Greets Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister

BK2003112592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, had a cordial talk with H.E. Koji Kakizawa, Japan's deputy minister of foreign affairs, at the cabinet of the Council of Ministers at 0930 on 19 March. During the meeting H.E. Hun Sen warmly welcomed H.E. Kakizawa's presence in Cambodia and thanked the Japanese Government and Diet for assisting in the Cambodian peace process. He also urged Japan to send officers and troops of its self-defense forces to take part in the military component of the UN Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to help keep peace in this country and to contribute more financial aid to UNTAC operations as well as the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

In his reply, H.E. Koji Kakizawa stressed the readoption of the budget for UNTAC and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to enable them to proceed with the peace process in Cambodia. He also noted Japan's decision [words indistinct] to rebuild the Chrouy Changva bridge, repair National Route 6, expand the Snay Pul road, and assist in health care to help repopulate Cambodia. He said that Japan will give scholarships to 10 Cambodian students in 1993.

Heng Samrin Receives Former Security Minister

BK2003074192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 March at the Chamka Mon State Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia [SOC], granted an audience to Mr. Um Manorin, former minister of National Security in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era who is currently a resident of France.

After warmly and intimately welcoming Mr. Um Manorin and his wife, H.E. Heng Samrin informed them of the real situation in Cambodia following the 7 January liberation day in which the SOC strived to build the country from scratch and of the progress made in the past more than 13 years in economic, social, cultural, education, diplomatic, and other fields.

H.E. Heng Samrin also recalled the bitter history under the Pol Pot regime which plunged the Cambodian motherland into the abyss of death and massacred over 3 million Cambodians.

H.E. Heng Samrin noted the correct policy of the CPP and SOC Government toward the compatriots both inside and outside the country, giving them the full rights and freedoms regardless of their religious beliefs and political tendencies.

In his reply, Mr. Um Manorin expressed profound thanks to H.E. Heng Samrin for [words indistinct] in granting him the audience and informing him of the real situation in the country.

Mr. Um Manorin highly praised the CPP and SOC Government for liberating the Cambodian people from the genocidal Pol Pot regime and for restoring and building many great achievements within a period of only 13 years.

Indonesia

Murdani on Opposition to Foreign Military Bases

BK2003101892 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 12 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] JAKARTA (JP)—Indonesia remains opposed to the presence of foreign military bases in Southeast Asia in this post Cold War era, says Minister of Defense and Security L.B. Murdani.

"Indonesia's relatively mute reaction toward readiness expressed by some ASEAN countries to host foreign military facilities does not signify any change in the national defense principles," Murdani told members of the House of Representatives Tuesday [10 March] in reply to a question.

Singapore expresed its readiness in January to host the United States' logistical task force after the super power closes its bases in the Philippines. Malaysia has already expressed a similar intention.

Indonesia has always been opposed to the presence of foreign military bases in the region. However, it also aired its readiness earlier this year to service U.S. warships on commercial bases.

Murdani said a logistical task force was by no means a military base and Singapore would only host part of such a task force.

Singapore will provide water, food and fuel to incoming U.S. ships and provide services to passing air force squadrons.

"Since it is not a military base there is no need to make a fuss over it. But it does not mean that Indonesia has changed its defense policy," he told members of Commission I responsible for security affairs.

Jakarta Wants Burma To Solve Rohingya Problem

BK2003092092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Excerpt] JAKARTA (JP)—Indonesia, expressing concern about the large exodus of Rohingya Moslems from

Myanmar [Burma] to Bangladesh, appealed to Yangon [Rangoon] yesterday to solve the problem once and for all.

"Indonesia appeals to the Myanmarese [Burmese] Government to take the necessary steps to solve the problem regarding the Rohingya ethnic group and to deal with the fundamental questions that have led to the flow of refugees into neighboring countries," Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas said last night.

The statement, made by the minister at a hearing with the House of Representatives, was the first on the question by Indonesia since the problem began last month.

Alatas said the problems inside Myanmar were essentially its internal affairs. "But the recent developments show that the situation inside Myanmar has carried over into some international dimensions and tends to have an adverse effect on the peace and stability in Southeast Asia."

He brushed aside suggestions that Indonesia and other ASEAN member countries had been paying no attention to Myanmar. Alatas said ASEAN had been concerned about the developments in Myanmar all along, but that it believed in using "constructive engagement" in resolving the problems. [passage omitted].

More Officers Replaced After Dili Incident

BK1903153392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 19 Mar 92

[By Pascal Mallet]

[Text] Jakarta, March 19 (AFP)—Last November's massacre in East Timor continues to make waves with the replacement of three top Indonesian military intelligence officers, reliable sources said Thursday.

The generals, whose transfers were recently announced as part of routine job rotations, had been in charge of overseas and domestic intelligence and certain special operations of the Badan Intelijen Strategis (BAIS), the sources said.

BAIS is under the command of Indonesia's military chief General Try Sutrisno. Indonesian troops opened fired last November 12 on pro-independence East Timorese demonstrators in Dili, leaving some 50 dead and another 90 missing, according to an official investigation.

Other sources believe the death toll could have exceeded 100.

The replaced generals were reproached for failing to advise Jakarta of the risks of an "international plot against Indonesia" mounted by exiled members of the East Timorese independence movement Fretilin in Portugal and Australia, the sources said.

They were also blamed for failing to transmit sufficient information to the regional and local military commands responsible for East Timor, they added.

A military council probing the Army's conduct in the Dili shooting has already criticised loopholes in Army information gathering in the East Timorese capital.

In reports last month, it said the demonstrations which led to the shooting "could have been avoided" as there were enough "signs and indication" that they would take place.

The transfers of the three brigadier generals "would of course be presented as harmless and normal and the Army will invoke organizational reasons," one source said.

"But it is very unusual to shuffle almost half of the service's department directors at the same time," the source said.

"It is not forbidden to renew the three-year mandate of a BAIS director when it expires, as was the case for at least one of them (the three generals). It is significant that it had not been offered to those concerned," he said.

Sources also pointed to the fact that one of the generals' successors was already director of another department in military intelligence.

The sanctions against the three BAIS generals, though not officially announced as such, were not the first involving Indonesian military officiers deemed responsible for the Dili massacre.

Following the findings of a military panel, Army chief General Eddy Sudrajat decreed that eight servicemen would be court martialed, three discharged from the Army and three others transfered to non-command postings.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights published a declaration last month calling on Jakarta to respect human rights in East Timor, while at the same time lauding steps taken to punish those responsible for the Dili shooting.

Alatas Discusses Future Use of NAM Position

BK1903053392 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Indonesia will not use its future position as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] to serve its national interests. The assurance was given by Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas during a dialogue with chief editors and reporters of national mass media organizations following a fast-breaking function in Jakarta last night. Alatas said Indonesia would refrain from taking advantage of the chairmanship to influence fellow members to support Indonesia on the East Timor issue.

Minister Ali Alatas added that the NAM Coordinating Bureau would meet in Denpasar, Bali from 12 to 15 May in preparation for the nonaligned summit scheduled for next September. He said the Coordinating Bureau

meeting was scheduled to be held in Yugoslavia, which is the current NAM chairman.

[Begin Alatas recording] Although the meeting will be an additional burden for us, we think that we will gain experience on how to convene such meetings before the summit itself takes place. In addition, we will be able to study substances for the forthcoming summit. [end recording]

The decision to hold the ministerial meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau in Denpasar, Bali was made during the recent meeting of the NAM foreign affairs ministers in Larnaca, Cyprus because Yugoslavia's domestic situation would not enable the ministeral meeting to be convened there.

'Consistent' Stand on E. Timor Discussed

BK2003045792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Speaking to some mass media organization chiefs during a fast-breaking session on Wednesday evening in Jakarta, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas emphasized that Indonesia as a future leader of the Nonaligned Movement will not abuse that capacity for its own interest in connection with the East Timor issue.

According to Minister Alatas, Indonesia's capacity as the future movement's leader undoubtedly would have an indirect influence on the movement's international members. We absolutely abhor resorting to that influence just for our own interest. This statement sounds ironic because any other nation which wields such a leadership influence would have definitely taken advantage of such a capacity to inject some political influence among the members of the movement concerning political issues, such as the East Timor issue, at international fora.

Citing an example, the minister said Portugal, which was previously the EC president, spread its influence among EC members with the hope that a joint communique would be issued—mainly targetted to discredit the Indonesian Government. Unfortunately, such an effort never materialized. Portugal only had the opportunity of using its influence in trying to obstruct Indonesia from being nominated as the leader of the Nonaligned Movement. Taking this into account, why did Indonesia not take the opportunity of the capacity as the movement's future chairman to influence the movement members in the effort to solve the East Timor issue which had recently reemerged due to the Dili incident? It is possible that Indonesia wishes to settle the East Timor issue in a proportional manner besides projecting a consistent attitude that it has been continuously practicing with every government or international group, including the United Nations.

We have been very open to the outside world regarding the East Timor issue. Indonesia had approved the request of the Portuguese Parliamentary and UN delegations to conduct a visit to Indonesia's youngest province. An advanced mission was supposed to make a preliminary visit to the province in an effort to make necessary preparations prior to the visit by the Portuguese and UN delegations. Unfortunately, Portugal—the country which colonized the East Timor province for about 300 years—decided on a unilateral postponement in September last year. This was not the only incident. It had also obstructed a UN delegation from visiting East Timor. The mission of the delegation was to observe the holding of a general election in the province in 1987.

The international circle would absolutely extend their sympathy to Indonesia as a result of Portugal's endeavors. On the other hand, Portugal could also be reproached by the international circle for refusing to acknowledge the current developments in East Timor after it abandoned the province in a tumultuous state.

Laos

News Conference on 2d SPA's 8th Plenary Session

BK1903142392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] This morning, the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] held a news conference with foreign correspondents and representatives of the international organizations in Laos on the success of the eighth plenary session of the second SPA.

The news conference was conducted by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the SPA Standing Committee, who said: The eighth plenary session of the second SPA of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which was convened in Vientiane capital on 13 and 14 March, was concluded with a brilliant success. The session debated and endorsed the socioeconomic development plan and state budget for the year 1992 presented by the government. It is anticipated that the growth of the national economy will be about 7.3 percent compared to 1991, that gross national production will be about (?683) billion kip, that (?agricultural production) will increase by 5.9 percent, that rice production will reach 1.5 million metric tons of paddy, and that services will increase by 5.5 percent. At the same time, efforts will be made to reduce the budget deficit by increasing internal revenue. The session unanimously agreed with the objectives of the socioeconomic development for the year 1992, aimed at gradually transforming the natural and semi-natural economy into the goods economy by speedily developing agricultrue and forestry work in all aspects.

The news conference also pointed out the assessment of the achievements of the socioeconomic development in the past year. It was noted that the gross national production in 1991 increased by 4 percent compared to 1990, and that the per capita income was approximately

156,000 kip, equivalent to U.S. $220. The achievements in the implementation of the line of renovation in the economic sphere constitute a firm foundation for developing the macroeconomic management by the state in the next (?10) years.

Rural Development Program Set for Four Districts

BK1903113892 Vientiane KPL in English
0912 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 19 (KPL)—The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will launch this year rural development programme in connection with integrated agro-forestry activities in four districts. Among them are Champassak, KM-20 (Khammouane Province), one district in Vientiane Prefecture, and another in Savannakhet. The programme also includes pilot fixed farming in Luang Prabang.

The development plan is categorised into two areas, low and upland areas. Low land will be set for the production of foodstuff in combination with intensive agriculture, animal raising and tree plantation for marketing. Facilities will be built to support the plan. These include the construction of irrigation system, embankment, small and medium industrial basis, electrification, and road construction.

The development plan in upland areas includes the implementation of fixed farming in a bid to end slash-and-burn practice, the creation of socioeconomic groups, irrigation system and roads, small industrial bases, small hydropower stations, education and health bases, drinking water facilities, land clearing, cultivation, animal raising, the collection and sale of forestry produce, the allocation of water sources.

The development programme will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in collaboration with the provincial and district authorities.

UNHCR Fails To Refund Refugee Projects

BK1903120392 Vientiane KPL in English
0903 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 19 (KPL)—Delegates from the agriculture and forestry services of Bokeo and Sayaboury Provinces, in their reports to the recent nationwide conference on agriculture and forestry, said that returnees resettling in the two provinces are now facing difficulties in building permanent economic bases as they have not sufficiently received assistance from the UNHCR [UN High Comissioner for Refugees].

The Bokeo delegate took the case of 50 Lao "Yao" refugee families, over 300 members, who returned from Thailand in [word indistinct] and now live in Namtong village, Houai Sai District, Bokeo province, as an example. The people still lead a rather difficult life due to lack of funds for expanding production.

In 1991, the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry and of Social Welfare and [War] Veterans, in collaboration with the Bokeo provincial authority, implemented a project for permanent job arrangement for the Yao people as the UNHCR had decided to provide aid for the project. The provincial service of agriculture and forestry was assigned to organise its implementation by using beforehand the local fund. A 23-million kip medium-size flood weir capable of irrigating 70 hectares was completed, a 9-km road access to the Yao village costing 113 million kip built, while another work, the clearing of 70 hectare rice fields, has not been done yet for lack of funds.

The delegate said so far all the advanced expenditures have not yet been refunded by the UNHCR.

As the rice fields have not been cleared for them as planned originally, the Yao people have no choice other than continuing slash-and-burn cultivation. Though completed, the irrigation facility has not been operated yet.

The case in Sayaboury was that over 1,700 refugees from Thailand have resettled in Phiang District. Last year, the UNHCR extended a U.S.$50,000 aid toward the cost of clearing some 70 hectare rice fields but still uncultivable because there remains no irrigation facility. The UNHCR has ever pledged to provide assistance to the refugees. [sentence as received]

In this connection, both Bokeo and Sayaboury delegates have informed all the situations to the government in order to propose the UNHCR to review all the projects for the returnees in the two provinces.

Philippines

Government Asks U.S. To Slow Subic Pullout

HK2003020492 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 20 Mar 92 p 5

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] The Philippine government has asked the United States to go slow in pulling out of the Subic Naval Base and to seek its clearance before any withdrawal operations can be carried out in the last U.S. naval facility in the country, according to a Filipino official.

The official, who asked not to be named, said Manila had already made representations with U.S. officials over the issue as he pointed out that the "withdrawal of American military forces in Subic should be a joint undertaking of the Philippine government and the U.S."

"Under the Manglapus-Shultz agreement signed on October 17, 1988, the withdrawal should be a joint cooperative effort, the schedule of which should be jointly agreed by the two governments," the official, who

is also a member of the Presidential Task Force on Bases Conversion headed by Ambassador Alejandro Melchor, said.

According to the official, the "U.S. has already started withdrawal operations on a unilateral system without involving the appropriate Philippine government agencies."

"As it is, the Americans have submitted a withdrawal schedule without consulting the Philippine government and have even accelerated the withdrawal period to the disadvantage of the base workers," the official stressed.

Manila's move came amid lobbying from the 20,000-strong Federation of Filipino Civilian Bases Employes Association which had earlier asked President Aquino to intervene to slow down the pullout of American troops at Subic.

The official said the "primary concern of the Philippine government" in asking for a slowdown of withdrawal operations was to "ensure a well-organized custody and control of the facilities and to minimize any disruptive effects of transition."

Under the elaborate withdrawal plan prepared by Admiral Charles Larson, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Command (CINCPAC), the U.S. Navy will cease operations of the ship repair facility next month and all floating equipment, particularly the two remaining drydocks, will be towed to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in May.

Government Seeks $5 Billion Loan Deferment

HK2003031892 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 Mar 92 p 9

[By Dinna M. Chan]

[Text] The government is asking 14 bilateral creditors that it be allowed to defer payment on loans maturing in the next five years.

Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia, Jr., said that if creditors agree to the request, it would mean debt-relief of $5 billion or $1 billion yearly. The creditors mostly come from Paris Club or the rich nations made up of the United States, Japan, Germany, Spain and France.

Last year, the Philippines was able to reschedule some $1.5 billion in maturing obligations on principal and interest payments to the Paris Club.

During the Consultative Group meeting held in Hong Kong last week, Cuisia informed the international donor community that it would require at least $4 billion in loans. The government over the past two years was able to get loans of $1.8 billion yearly. The Philippines also seeks medium-term economic support from the International Monetary Fund after the end of an ongoing standby arrangement this December.

The standby arrangement, premised on a short-term economic stabilization program, provides the Philippines roughly $960 million in a year. The $960 million comes from two IMF credit facilities—the standby arrangement and the compensatory and contingency fund facility.

While in Hong Kong, Cuisia said the government was able to secure substantial loans to cover the economy's financing requirements from international financial institutions and the Paris Club.

Aside from the fourth rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club and the ongoing IMF program, the country's commercial creditors and the government had agreed on a comprehensive debt relief package that would cover $5 billion of the country's total commercial debt stock.

The package, which would provide the country about $2 billion in new money and debt relief, has four options—cash buyback, temporary interest rate reduction bonds, principal collateralized interest reduction bonds, and new money bonds.

For the implementation of the package, the country also needs to secure $800 million in funds from official creditors to be used as enhancements.

On the other hand, the cash buyback which would cancel about $1 billion of the country's total commercial debt stock will be financed by $500 million out of the country's own international reserves.

Manila Passes Second IMF Performance Review

HK2003053192 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 20 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

[By Ma. Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] The Philippine Government has successfully hurdled the second performance review of the International Monetary Fund, IMF acting chief of mission Chee Sung Lee announced Wednesday [18 March] night, winding up eight days of technical and policy discussions.

He said the mission will favorably endorse the Philippine economic program to the IMF executive board when it meets in end-April or early May. Mr. Chee said the next economic review will be in July—under a new Philippine administration—and this will extend up to August.

All the mission members, totalling five, left yesterday for Washington. Led by Bruce Smith, who had to leave for the United States ahead of the group, the other members of the review team aside from Mr. Chee are Jian Hai Lian, Joshua Felman and Gerald Schiff.

"The first two months of 1992 have been favorable. Almost all economic indicators are positive," Mr. Chee said.

So far, the National Government [NG] has reined in its budget deficit. As of end-February, the NG deficit was placed at roughly P4 billion [Philippine pesos], which was below the targetted shortfall during the period.

With respect to Government's monetary program, the Central Bank has been able to control the expansion of money supply. The growth in base money (BM) has been limited to 4.3% from last year's 14.2% increase in liquidity.

(BM is one of six performance criteria being monitored by the IMF and consists of cash in circulation, reserve eligible government securities and reserve deficiencies of commercial banks.)

Right now, Mr. Chee stressed, it is important for the Philippine Government to stick close to the IMF-approved economic stabilization program (ESP) not only up to the end of the term of the present administration but even beyond. He cited two areas which the next administration must further pursue—attract foreign investments and continue liberalization of the financial sector.

CONCERNS

Despite an expected favorable endorsement, however, the IMF mission members have raised several concerns.

Mr. Chee indicated that revenue generation is still a problem. "In the long term, the Philippines would need all the revenues it can tap from various sources. Looking beyond, revenue generation must be seriously addressed," he said.

However, the IMF official said that in the immediate term, the 1992 ESP is "satisfactory". This could imply that the passage of the two remaining revenue-enhancement measures is no longer of critical importance as of the moment. Still pending with Congress are the bill on refinements to the value-added tax (VAT) and another for the creation of confidential positions at the bureaus of Customs and Internal Revenue.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said it would now be up to the next administration to determine whether or not it wants to have the remaining tax bills approved.

On the subject of the cutback on public expenditures, Mr. Chee stressed that the IMF is totally averse to reducing government expenses because this compromises economic growth.

The IMF had to agree to a decrease in public expenditures upon assurance from the Philippine Government that it would not delay the implementation of vital infrastructure projects.

EASY WAY OUT

"The problem with the Philippines," Mr. Chee said, "is that it wants the easy way out. When it wants to cut its budget deficit on insufficient revenues, your Government cuts down on infrastructure. This is very bad for private investments."

If Government should ever contemplate on further cutbacks on public expenditures, it should wield the axe on such non-essentials as military spending, the IMF official maintained. "I don't see any need for substantial defense budgets because there is no war."

EXCHANGE RATE

The third issue the IMF touched on was the exchange rate system, precisely one of the core points of the Article IV consultations incorporated in the second performance review.

Review team member Joshua Felman admitted that the appreciation of the peso is a concern of the IMF because of declining export competitiveness.

"And the Philippines needs export receipts to correct its current account shortfall," he pointed out. However, he noted that a depreciation of the peso would be unthinkable at this point because "market forces do not point to a devaluation."

The local financial system is awash with dollars, and demand is very slack.

"There is no way you can devalue the peso without reflecting market forces," he explained.

The most important thing is to strike a balance between promoting competitiveness of Philippine exports and insuring that the country does not bloat its budget deficit through higher foreign debt service payments, the IMF official said.

DEBT BURDEN

All things considered, Mr. Chee said the Philippine Government could be ready for an enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF), a financing window for the poorest of the poor countries.

Lending terms are concessional—10-year repayment at an annual interest rate of 0.5%. The ESAF is a three-year program which can be extended up to four years.

The Philippines has been granted eligibility to this financing facility because the country is perceived to be still "in serious debt problem."

However, whether or not the Philippines should apply for ESAF or an extended fund facility (EFF) depends on the Administration, stressing that the IMF is not dictating on the kind of program the Philippine Government should choose.

Normally, the Philippines can avail only of a lower volume of funds under an ESAF than an EFF. It would depend on the country's financing requirements, Mr. Chee explained.

Thailand

Gen Suchinda Vows To Expel Burmese Troops

BK2003012392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Mar 92 p A2

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday Thailand will not tolerate any violation of its territory by the Burmese Army and will forcibly expel the intruders.

He said the situation on the Thai-Burmese border in Mae Hong Son Province was under control and that the Army has sent more troops and weaponry to reinforce the area.

Suchinda, also supreme commander, made the comment after a fact-finding visit to Ban Doi Saeng in Mae Hong Son's Muang District where intruding Burmese troops last week clashed with local Thai forces. One Thai soldier was killed and four others injured in the incident.

The army commander was also given a briefing on the border situation.

The Burmese Army has since late December launched heavy offensives against the anti-Rangoon Karen guerrillas, who have established a string of bases along the Thai-Burmese frontier.

Its latest operations against the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw on the meandering Moei River, which serves as a natural Thai-Burmese boundary, included ground and air strikes with many of the Burmese heavy mortar fire landing on Thai soil.

Following the violation of territorial sovereignty, the 3rd Region Army Command beefed up the border area with more troops and heavy equipment.

Karen spokesman Em Martha on Wednesday [18 March] night played down the danger of Manerplaw being captured after the loss of Hill 4044 or better known as the Sleeping Dog Hill, saying the mountain served as the Karen's first line of defence.

The Burmese Army still has to pass through the second front of Mae Pa and Mae Latha, then cross the Salween River to the third and final defence line before it could harm Manerplaw, he said.

The Karen lost the hill last weekend after a resistance of two and a half months mainly because of a shortage of ammunition, he said. The Burmese had launched aerial and ground attacks to seize the mountain.

Em Martha said he believed it would take another two and a half months before the Burmese Army could break through to the Karen's second defence line. He also believed that Manerplaw would be able to resist the Burmese offensive.

The spokesman appealed for international assistance for the Karen and said dissident students, the Karenni as well as the Kachin have been helping his people.

To the south, where the Burmese Army opened another front against the Karen's Kaw Moo Ra camp, Em Marth said the stronghold would be able to survive "as long as they (the Burmese troops) don't pass through the front and don't violate international law (by crossing into Thai territory)" to launch rear attacks.

Spokesman Reviews Burmese Troop Incidents

BK1903134992 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 19 mar 92

[Statement by Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Information Department, at 19 March news briefing at the Foreign Ministry—recorded]

[Text] I would like to review the situation according to the reports we had from the military. From 12 March, an unknown number of Burmese troops launched offensives against the Kayah ethnic minority people by crossing the border into Thai territory, about 3 to 4 km deep, at Doi Saeng in Muang District, Mae Hong Son Province. A clash with Thai forces ensued. As a result, one Thai ranger was killed and four seriously wounded. Following the incident, the 3d Army Region on 14 March deployed helicopter gunships and OV10 planes equipped with Air Force rockets in order to chase out the intruders. As a result of the operations, the Burmese troops suffered five dead. We carried out no bombing. The intrusions by Burmese troops were sporadic—Burmese forces crossed over the Thai border and then left, and they crossed in again and out again in hot pursuit. According to the military, the area is like a horseshoe which the ethnic group uses as a hideout. The Burmese troops crossed over the Thai border in an attempt to attack them from the rear so that the ethnic rebels could be chased back into Burma.

On this matter, the Foreign Ministry has taken steps since it first received the report on the situation. And on 16 March, the foreign minister had a discussion with the Burmese foreign minister during a meeting at the Foreign Ministry. The Thai foreign minister expressed concern over the intrusions by Burmese troops and also on the report which said that Burma had asked Thailand to withdraw its forces from the border area. The Thai minister stressed to Burma that Thai forces will never pull out from the area since it is our own home. We also stressed to Burma that we have full authority to protect our territory. Thailand would not interfere with the domestic affairs in Burma if it concerned Burma's suppression of its ethnic minorities, but we would have to take action in order to push the intruding elements out once there were intrusions into our territory.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1213 GMT on 19 March in a report on the news briefing adds the following: "Thailand said Thursday [19 March] it would not support the dissident Burmese Government if the latter's

beseiged headquarters of Manerplaw falls to Burmese Government troops and the rebels flee into Thailand. 'We have a good relationship with the Burmese Government and therefore will not support the parallel government,' Foreign Minisry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek told reporters. He said Thailand would not interfere in Burma's internal affairs."]

Increased Trade Pressure Expected in Future

BK2003021592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Mar 92 p 30

[Text] Thailand will have to brace itself for increased trade pressure irrespective of the outcome of the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, the topmost official in charge of the country's negotiating strategy warned yesterday.

If the attempt to strengthen the free trade principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) fails, Thailand can expect the trading world to divide into economic blocs and more might-is-right actions from the world's economic giants, said Commerce Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena.

Both the United States and the European Community would threaten action along the lines of Section 301 of U.S. trade law, he warned.

This would mean raising import barriers against Thai exports in order to pry open the Thai market for the goods and services of developed countries, increasing protection for intellectual property, and other actions.

But even if the beleaguered 5 1/2-year-old round ends successfully, pressure will persist, Mr Phatchara went on. The draft agreement currently on the table in the round sets principles that will lead to further bilateral negotiations in which weaker countries are vulnerable, he said.

Among the provisions Mr Phatchara was referring to are the proposed first-ever multilateral rules governing international trade in services such as banking, telecommunications and transport.

The 108 countries participating in the Uruguay Round have virtually agreed on principles for a new umbrella General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and for the liberalisation of some specific sectors. Whether individual countries decide to allow foreign operators to gain access to their markets is up to the horse trading that has already begun.

Officials say the United States is increasing pressure on Thailand to open up its financial services markets.

Mr Phatchara warned that Thailand would have to consider carefully whether cross-retaliation—a country imposing sanctions in one sector because of a trading partner's failure to yield in another sector—is desirable. For example, Thai banks' freedom to operate in industrial countries should not be threatened with retaliation if Thailand retains protection for its own banking sector, he said.

Mr Phatchara was speaking on the second day of a symposium on Thailand's international trade organised by Thammasat University's Faculty of Economics.

Almost 400 participants heard speakers analyse where Thailand might gain or lose from the liberalisation of agriculture, textiles and services and from new rules on intellectual property rights.

One speaker, Garment Manufacturers' Association President Wirot Amatakunchai, repeated Wednesday's [18 March] call for liberalisation to be introduced at all stages of production. Echoing comments from Khemadhat Sukondhasing, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries' Autoparts Industry Club, Mr Wirot said retaining the 30 percent import duty that protects the petrochemicals industry would impair the competitiveness of intermediate and finished product manufacturers, who are facing steeper duty cuts.

Mr Wirot argued for the reverse: for raw materials such as petrochemicals to be charged the lowest import duties of 0-5 percent, intermediate goods to be charged 15-20 percent and finished products 30 percent.

Commenting on the Uruguay Round's proposals for phasing out textiles and garments quotas, Mr Wirot said: "Thailand is not ready for immediate free trade."

Indonesia and China, with considerably lower labour costs, would have a competitive edge, he said. Mr Wirot advocated gradual liberalisation over a period of six to eight years.

Chulalongkon University economist Suthiphan Chiratiwat predicted that farm trade liberalisation proposals currently on the table in the Round would raise world prices of rice by about 18 percent, maize by about 4.8 percent, sugar by 10.6 percent and broiler chicken by 1 percent. But Thai farmers in protected sectors, such as coffee, soybean and casava and herding dairy cattle, would suffer income losses, he suggested.

Dr Suphat Suphachanasai of Thammasat University predicted that the phase-out of textiles and garments quotas would accelerate the growth rate of exports ninefold over ten years.

His colleague, Dr Sirinaksana Khoman, said the Uruguay Round draft agreement on intellectual property rights protection was highly unsatisfactory and urged the Government to press for better concessions from the United States, the European Community and Japan in other sectors if the provisions on pharmaceutical patents are to be accepted.

Dr Thanasak Wahawisan of the Thailand Development Research Institute said Thailand should not be afraid to sign the Uruguay Round services agreement. Thailand

would then be able to enjoy both the easier access offered by other countries and the exceptions to liberalisation available under the draft, he said.

Dr Surakiat Sathirathai agreed that the services liberalisation draft should be acceptable to Thailand because it includes provisions that would, for example, allow the Bank of Thailand to impose strict conditions on new foreign bank branches in the interests of prudence.

SRV Potential as Economic Competitor Viewed

BK1903130392 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 19 Mar 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Vietnam's Achievements May Have Impact on Thailand"]

[Text] The former Soviets are no longer able to provide economic aid to Vietnam after the Soviet Union faced economic problems and was later replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the same time, Vietnam is also suffering from economic problems. Thus Vietnam has been trying to improve its relations with other countries—especially neighboring countries such as China and ASEAN—for its survival, with the aim of receiving more foreign aid for developing its economy.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has visited six ASEAN countries—Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei. The Vietnamese leader's ASEAN tour was considered very successful. The visit has helped develop Vietnam's relations with ASEAN countries and may in turn have effects on Vietnam's efforts to receive foreign aid with the aim of developing its economy in the future. Several ASEAN members support Vietnam's bid to become an ASEAN member. The ASEAN countries have also entered joint investment ventures with Vietnam, such as in the fields of forestry, fishing, natural resource research, and tourism.

Vietnam is interested in ASEAN because it has seen the example of economic development in these countries, especially Thailand, which has achieved a high rate of economic growth. Like Vietnam, the ASEAN countries have similar social and cultural conditions. Most of their economies depend on agriculture, and their industrial development is still related to agriculture. The technology of the ASEAN countries is of a level acceptable to Vietnam. Vietnam expects to use developments in these countries as an example for its economic development. Moreover, Vietnam still cannot receive aid from Western countries because the United States continues to maintain economic sanctions against it. Vietnam has tried several times to urge the United States to lift its economic sanctions.

Thailand has a policy of maintaining good relations with all neighboring countries, including Vietnam. We should remember that Vietnam will become a major competitor if the latter succeeds in economic development. We can see that Vietnam has already exported a large amount of rice and has taken over some of Thailand's rice market. Vietnam has a large, cheap labor force and natural resources. However, Vietnam lacks good management and does not have convenient communications and sufficient public utilities. Its regulations are also not conducive to foreign investment. All these obstacles are attributed to Vietnam's former economic system, which was totally controlled by the central administration. All kinds of developments were carried out slowly.

If Vietnam can solve these problems, it can become a major competitor of ASEAN countries, especially Thailand. We should be careful in our relations with Vietnam and should take into account our national interests. Vietnam still has military capabilities that can be a threat to the countries in this region.

The ASEAN countries should cooperate sincerely in developing relations with Vietnam. Otherwise, if the ASEAN countries seek only personal interests rather than common interests, Vietnam, which appears to be a source of interest for the ASEAN countries, could cause conflicts for ASEAN itself.

Diplomatic Ties With Latvia Established

BK1903140092 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 19 Mar 92

["Announcement by the Prime Minister's Office on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Latvia"]

Desirous of promoting the friendly and mutually beneficial relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Latvia, the Governments of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Latvia have agreed to establish normal diplomatic relations as of 19 March and to exchange diplomatic representatives at ambassadorial level.

Announced on 19 March 1992.